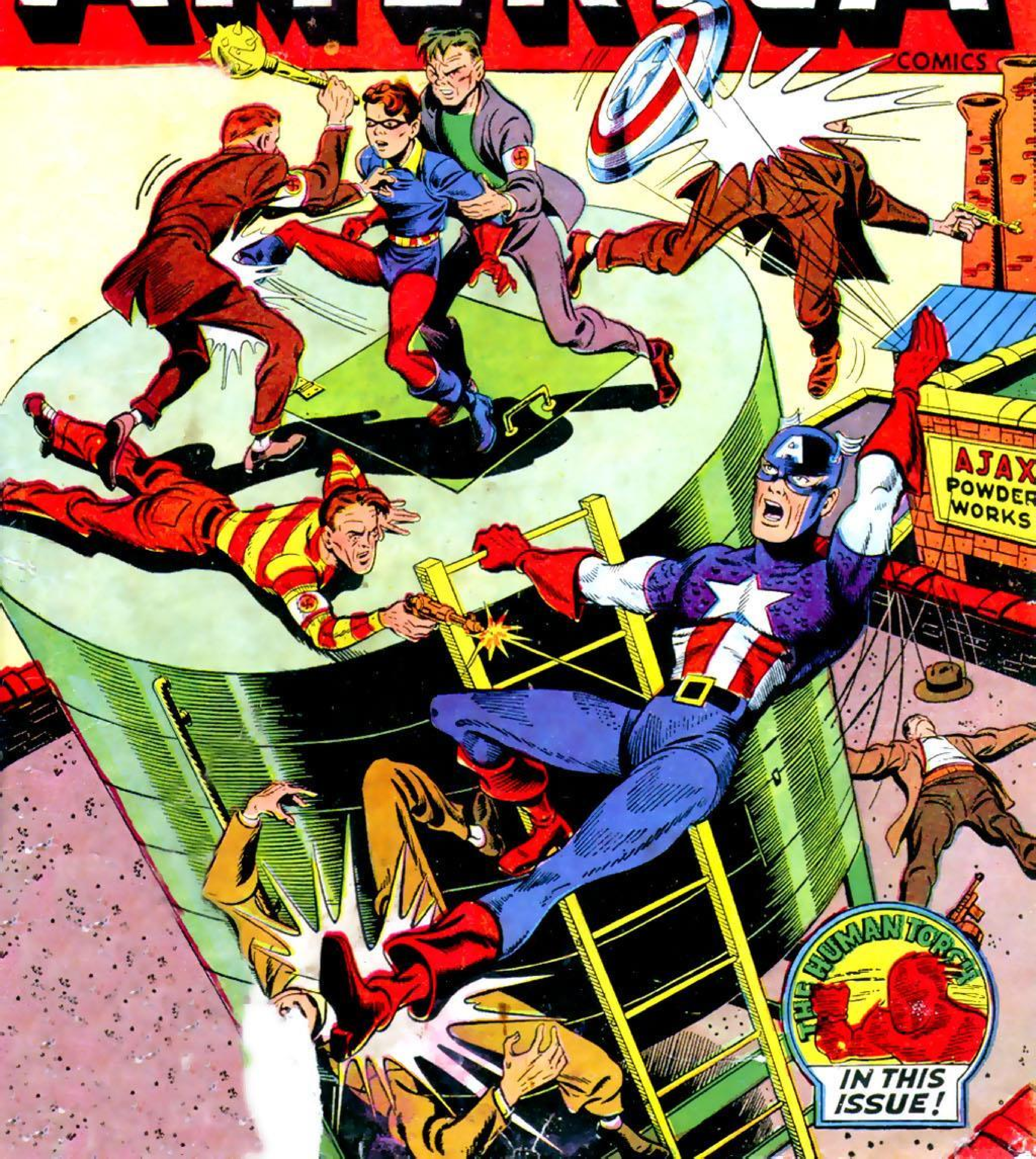
CAPTAIN AMERICA
COMICS

NO. 43

DECEMBER

10¢


AJAX
POWDER
WORKS
THE HUMAN TORCH
IN THIS ISSUE!

New ENLARGEMENT 3¢ STAMP

Just to Get Acquainted We Will Beautifully Enlarge Your Favorite Snapshot, Photo, Kodak Picture, Print or Negative to 5 x 7 Inches If You Enclose the Coupon and a 3 Cent Stamp for Return Mailing!

Everyone admires pictures in natural colors because the surroundings and loved ones are so true to life, just the way they looked when the pictures were taken, so we want you to know also about our gorgeous colored enlargements. Think of having that small picture or snapshot enlarged to 5 by 7-inch size so that the details and features you love are more life-like and natural.

Over one million men and women have sent us their favorite snapshots and pictures for enlarging. Thousands write us how much they also enjoy their remarkably true-to-life, natural colored enlargements we have sent them in handsome black and gold, or ivory and gold frames.

You are now given a wonderful opportunity to receive a beautiful enlargement of your cherished snapshot, photo or Kodak picture. Please include the color of hair and eyes and get our new bargain offer giving you your choice of handsome frames with a second enlargement beautifully hand tinted in natural lifelike oil colors and sent on approval. Your original is returned with your enlargement. This amazing enlargement offer is our way of getting acquainted and letting you know the quality of our work. Send today as supplies are limited.

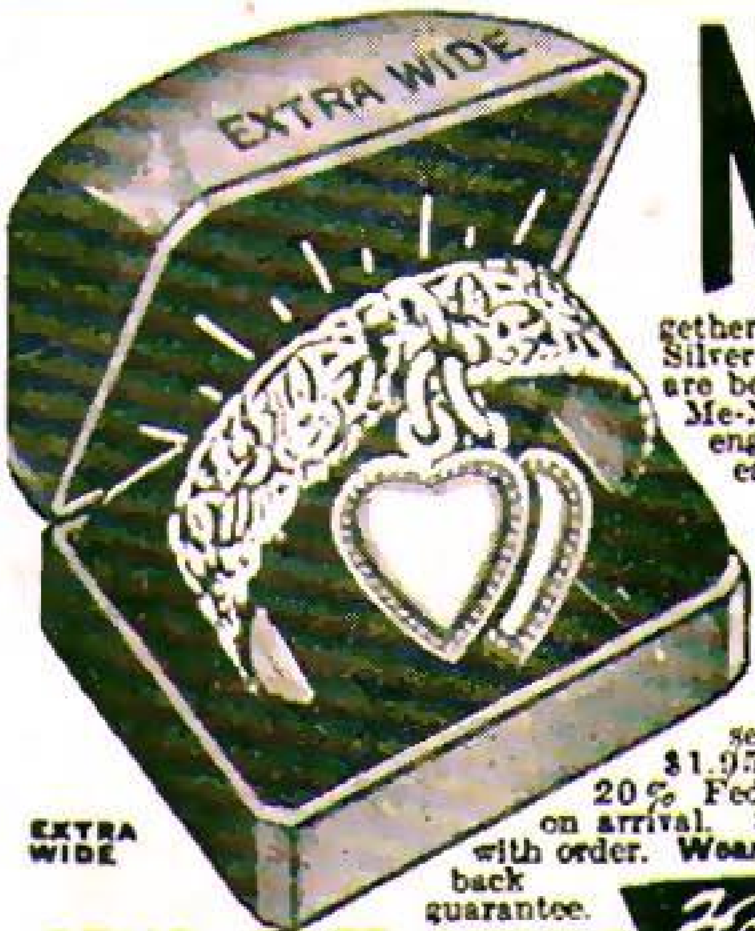
DEAN STUDIOS, Dept.944, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa

Enclose this coupon with your favorite snapshot, picture or negative and send to **DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 944, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa.**

Name .... **Color of Hair** ....

Address .... **Color of Eyes** ....

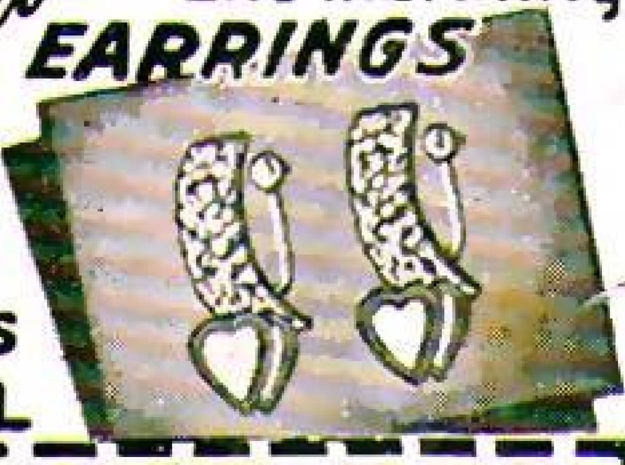
City.................... State.........



NEW *True-Love and Friendship* *Sterling Silver* RING and Matching *EARRINGS*

PENDANT HEART DESIGN

What makes both the ring and the matching earrings so unusual and attractive is the twin Sterling Silver Pendant hearts that dangle daintily like sentimental and charming settings. Either the ring or earrings can be worn separately but together they are truly captivating. The precious Sterling Silver ring is extra wide. Both the ring and earrings are beautifully embossed with the very newest "Forget-Me-Not" design with two pendant hearts suitable for engraving initials of loved ones. Both the ring and earrings become more attractive and sentimental the longer they are worn.



$1.95 EACH

10 DAYS TRIAL

SEND NO MONEY

Mail the coupon today. Your package sent immediately and you pay postman only $1.95 each plus a few cents mailing cost and 20% Federal Tax for either the ring or earrings, on arrival. **SEND NO MONEY** with order. **Wear 10 days** on money-back guarantee.

SEND TODAY **GIVEN**

Hollywood Photo Folder

if you order **BOTH the Ring AND Earrings** and send your order **PROMPTLY.** Beautiful, genuine leather photo folder. (Comes with pictures of two popular Movie Stars.)

EMPIRE DIAMOND CO., Dept. 212 E P **Jefferson, Iowa**

I want to take advantage of your special bargain offer. Please send me the following:

☐ Extra Wide Band Sterling Silver "Forget-Me-Not" **Ring**

☐ Matching Sterling Silver Pendant Heart **Earrings**

I understand I can return my order within 10 days for any reason and you will refund promptly.

Name ....

Address ....

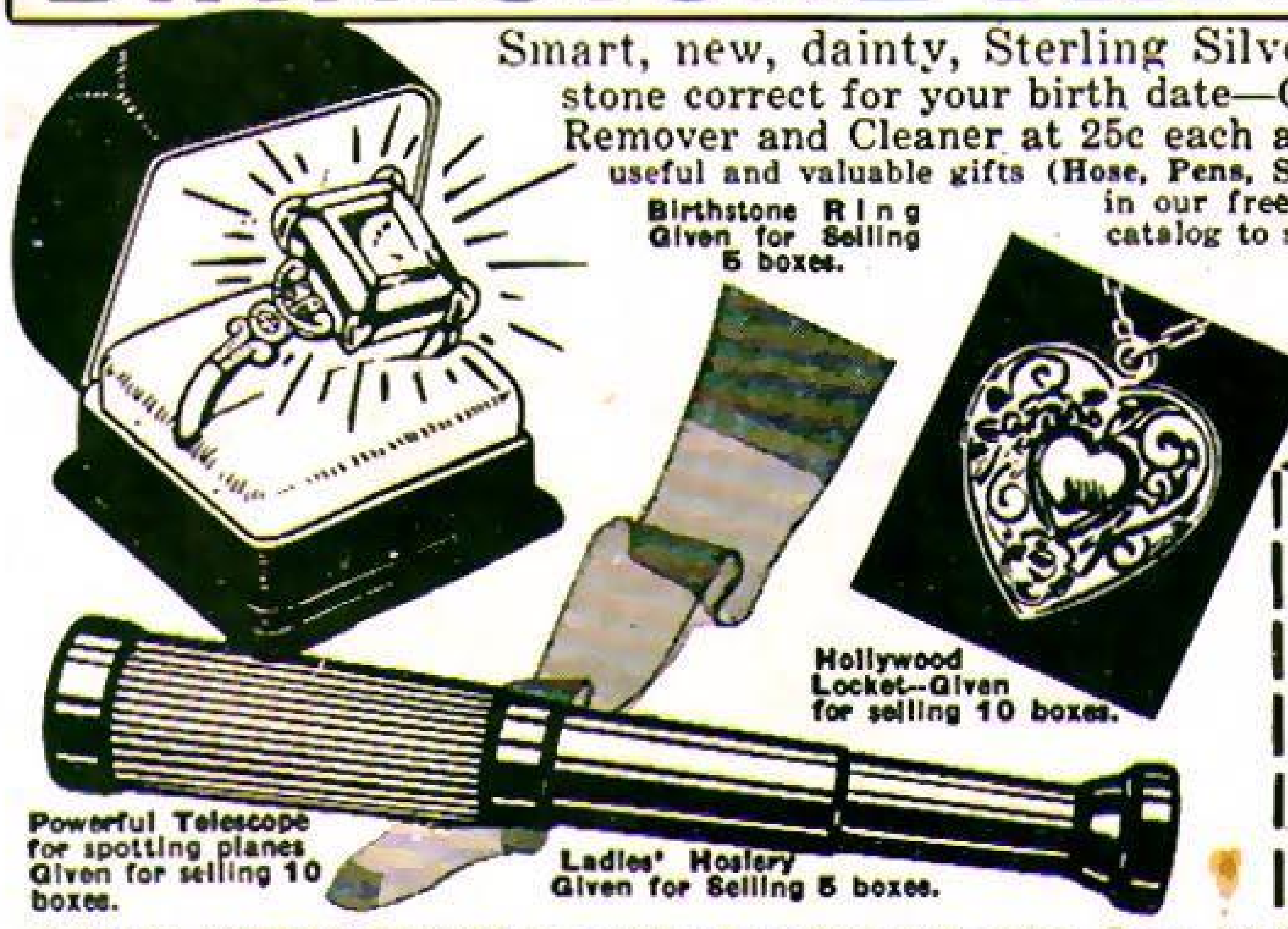
City ....

State.................................Ring Size..............

Beautiful Simulated BIRTHSTONE RING GIVEN *AWAY*

Also Other Valuable Gifts.

Smart, new, dainty, Sterling Silver Ring set with sparkling simulated Birthstone correct for your birth date—GIVEN for selling only 5 boxes of Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner at 25c each and returning the money collected. Dozens of other useful and valuable gifts (**Hose, Pens, Scissors, Rings, Lockets, Costume Jewelry,** etc.) are also offered in our free catalog-circular. Send name and address today for order and catalog to start.



Birthstone Ring Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Hollywood Locket--Given for selling 10 boxes.

Powerful Telescope for spotting planes Given for selling 10 boxes.

Ladies' Hosiery Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Just Send [illegible] Coupon *We TRUST You*

Many feel it's lucky to wear their birthstone. Send coupon today.

GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-16 **Jefferson, Iowa**

Enclose this coupon in an envelope or past n a postcard and send it to **GOLD CROWN PRODUCT** pt. **E-161** **Jefferson, Iowa, for order to start.**

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

CITY.................... ST

CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS is published monthly at Meriden, Conn., by Complete Photo Story Corp.
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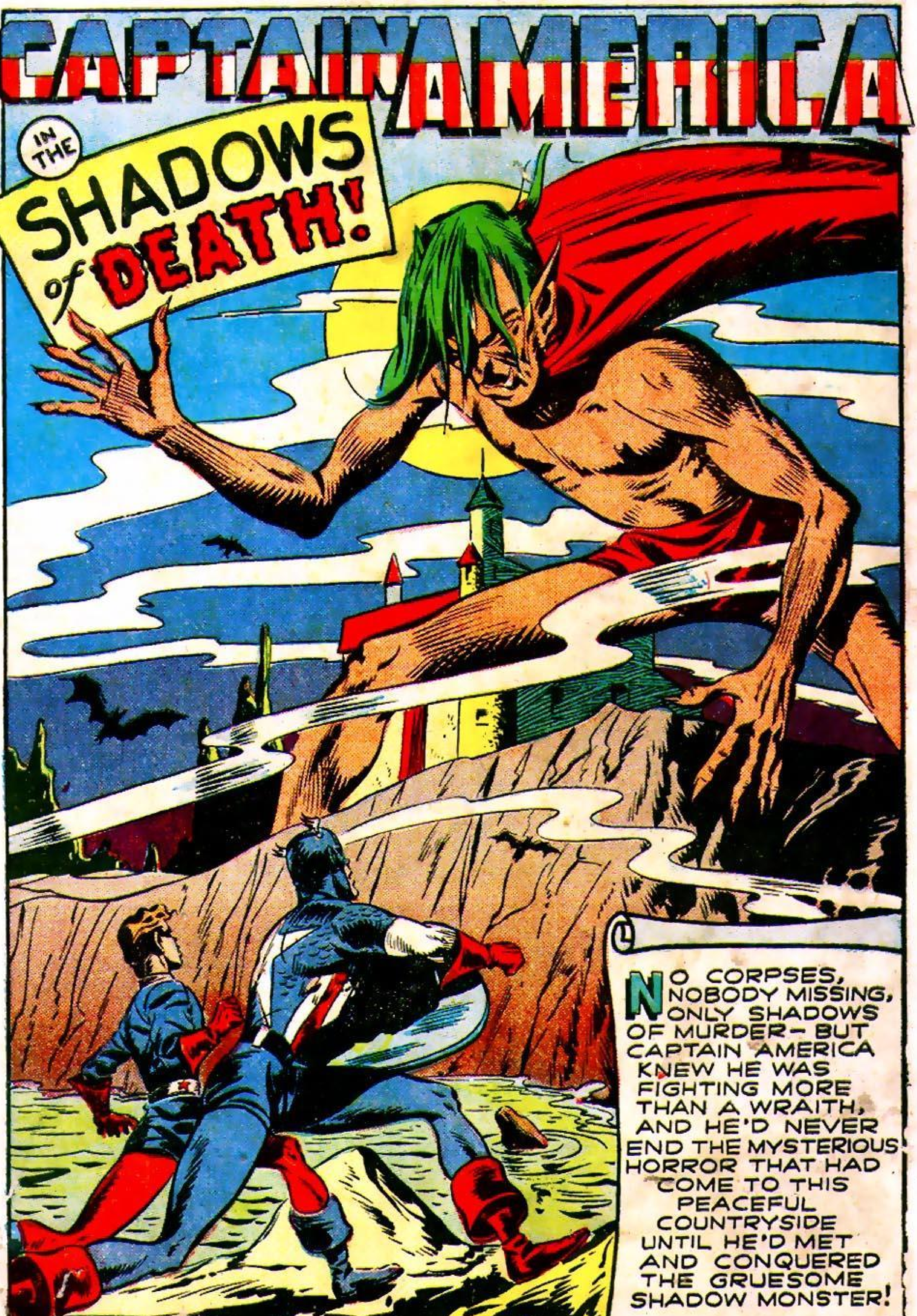
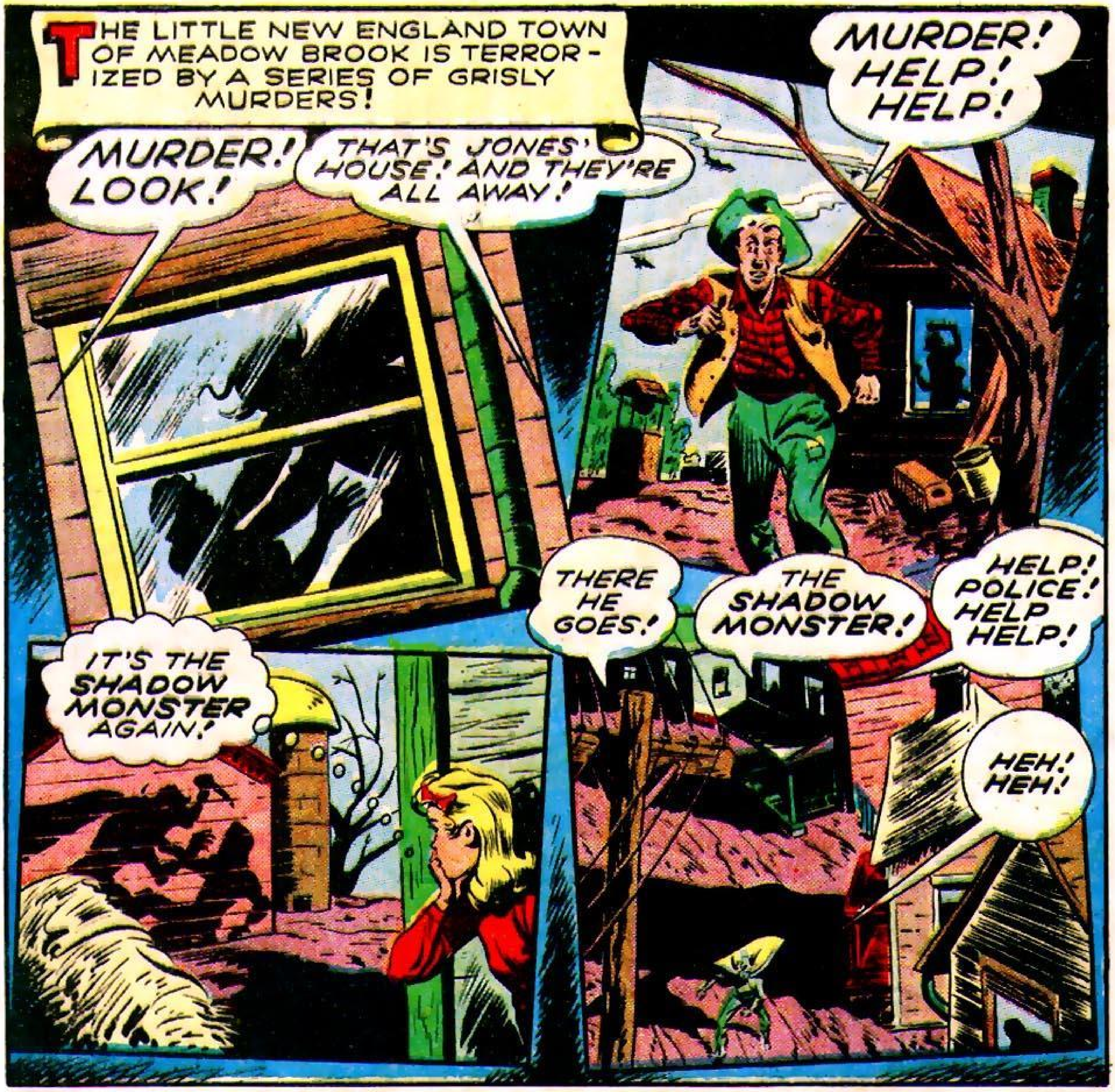
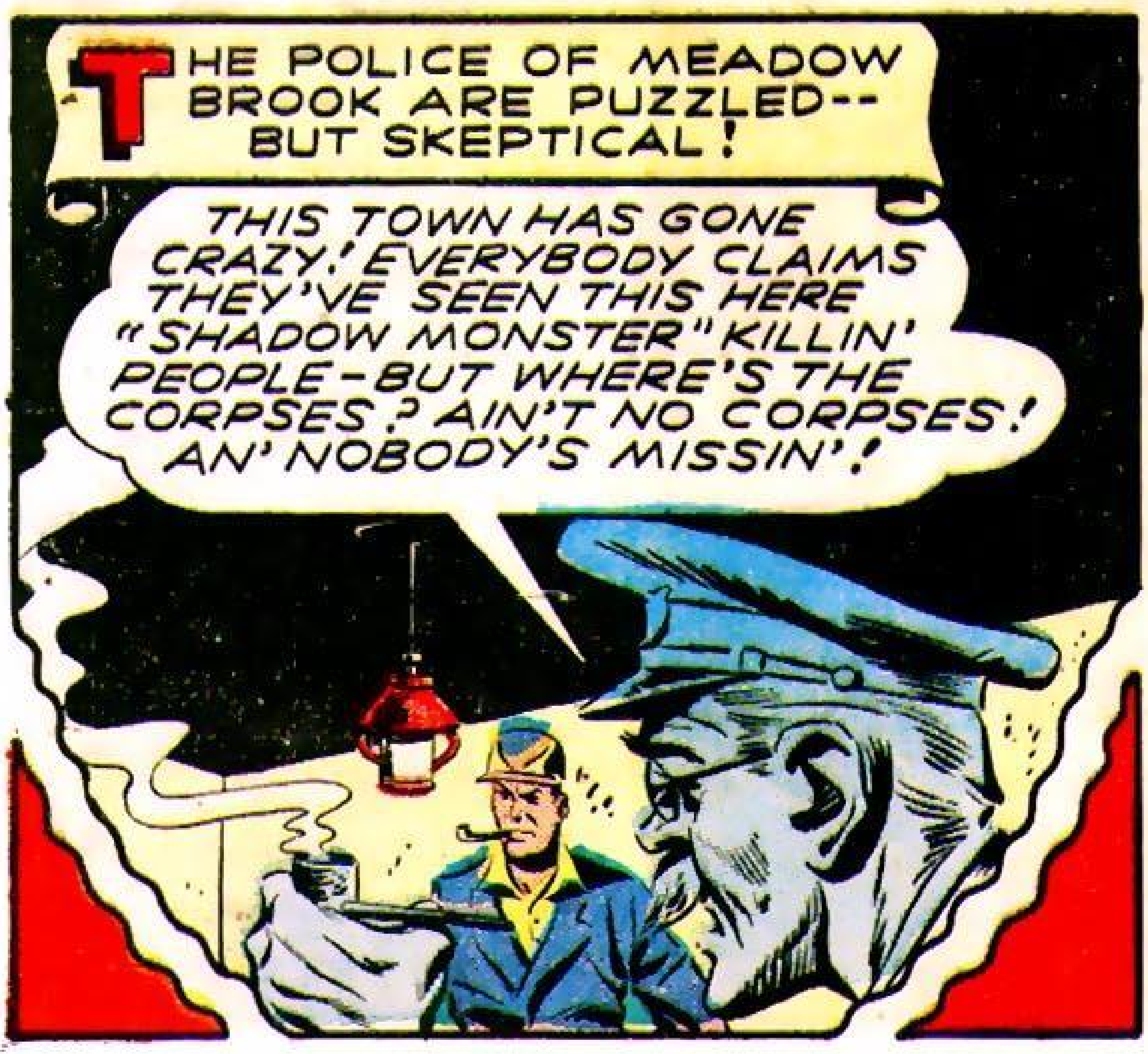

CAPTAIN AMERICA
IN THE
SHADOWS of DEATH!
NO CORPSES, NOBODY MISSING, ONLY SHADOWS OF MURDER— BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA KNEW HE WAS FIGHTING MORE THAN A WRAITH, AND HE'D NEVER END THE MYSTERIOUS HORROR THAT HAD COME TO THIS PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE UNTIL HE'D MET AND CONQUERED THE GRUESOME SHADOW MONSTER!

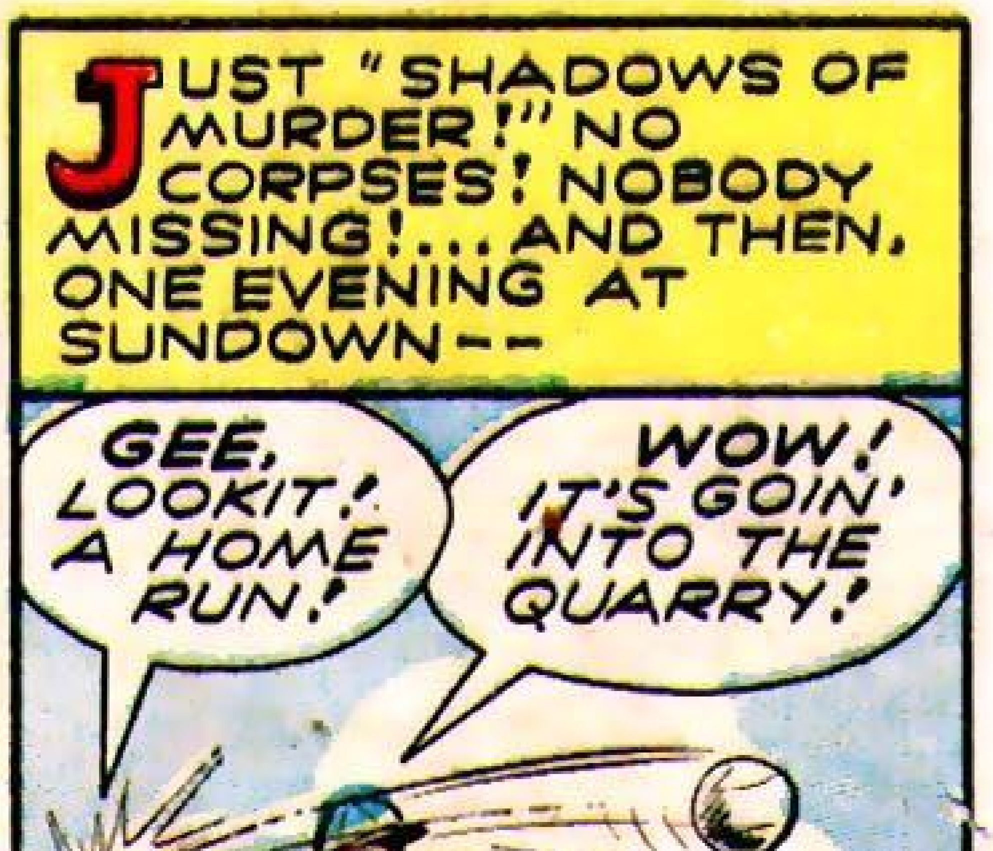
THE LITTLE NEW ENGLAND TOWN OF MEADOW BROOK IS TERRORIZED BY A SERIES OF GRISLY MURDERS!


MURDER! LOOK!
THAT'S JONES' HOUSE! AND THEY'RE ALL AWAY!
MURDER! HELP! HELP!
IT'S THE SHADOW MONSTER AGAIN!
THERE HE GOES!
THE SHADOW MONSTER!
HELP! POLICE! HELP HELP!
HEH! HEH!

THE POLICE OF MEADOW BROOK ARE PUZZLED-- BUT SKEPTICAL!


THIS TOWN HAS GONE CRAZY! EVERYBODY CLAIMS THEY'VE SEEN THIS HERE "SHADOW MONSTER" KILLIN' PEOPLE-BUT WHERE'S THE CORPSES? AIN'T NO CORPSES! AN' NOBODY'S MISSIN'!

JUST "SHADOWS OF MURDER!" NO CORPSES! NOBODY MISSING!... AND THEN, ONE EVENING AT SUNDOWN--


GEE, LOOKIT! A HOME RUN!
WOW! IT'S GOIN' INTO THE QUARRY!

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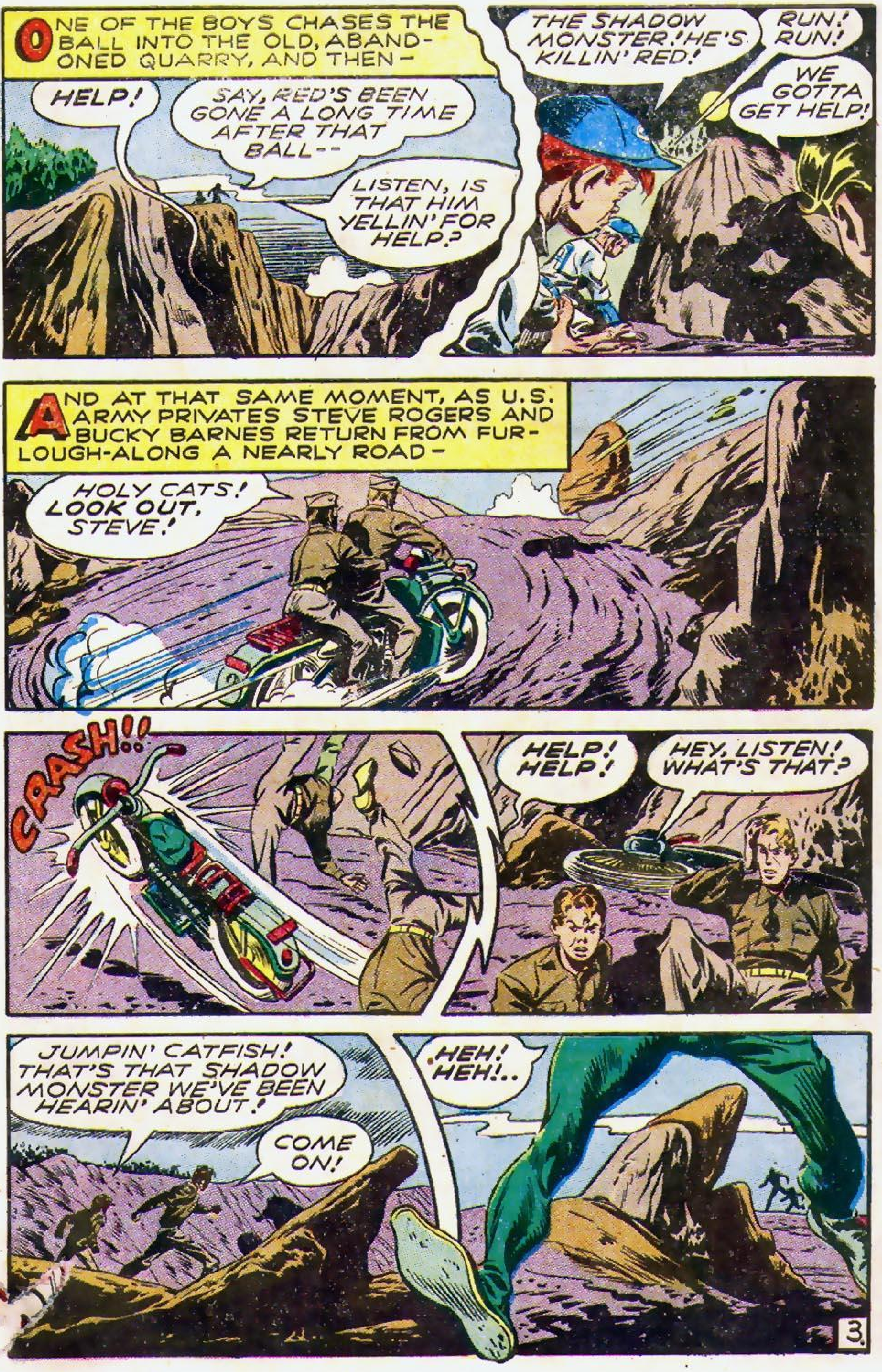
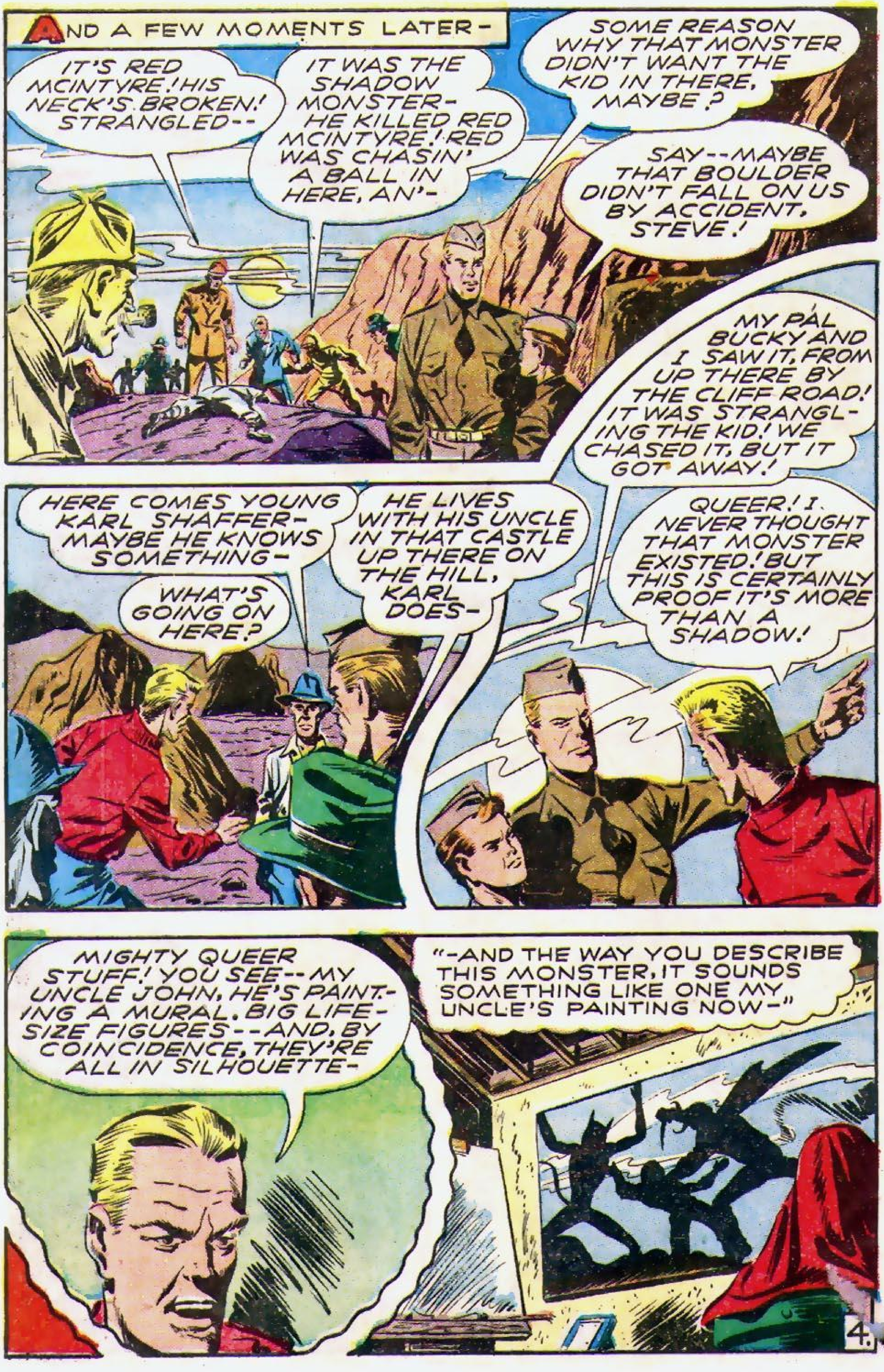
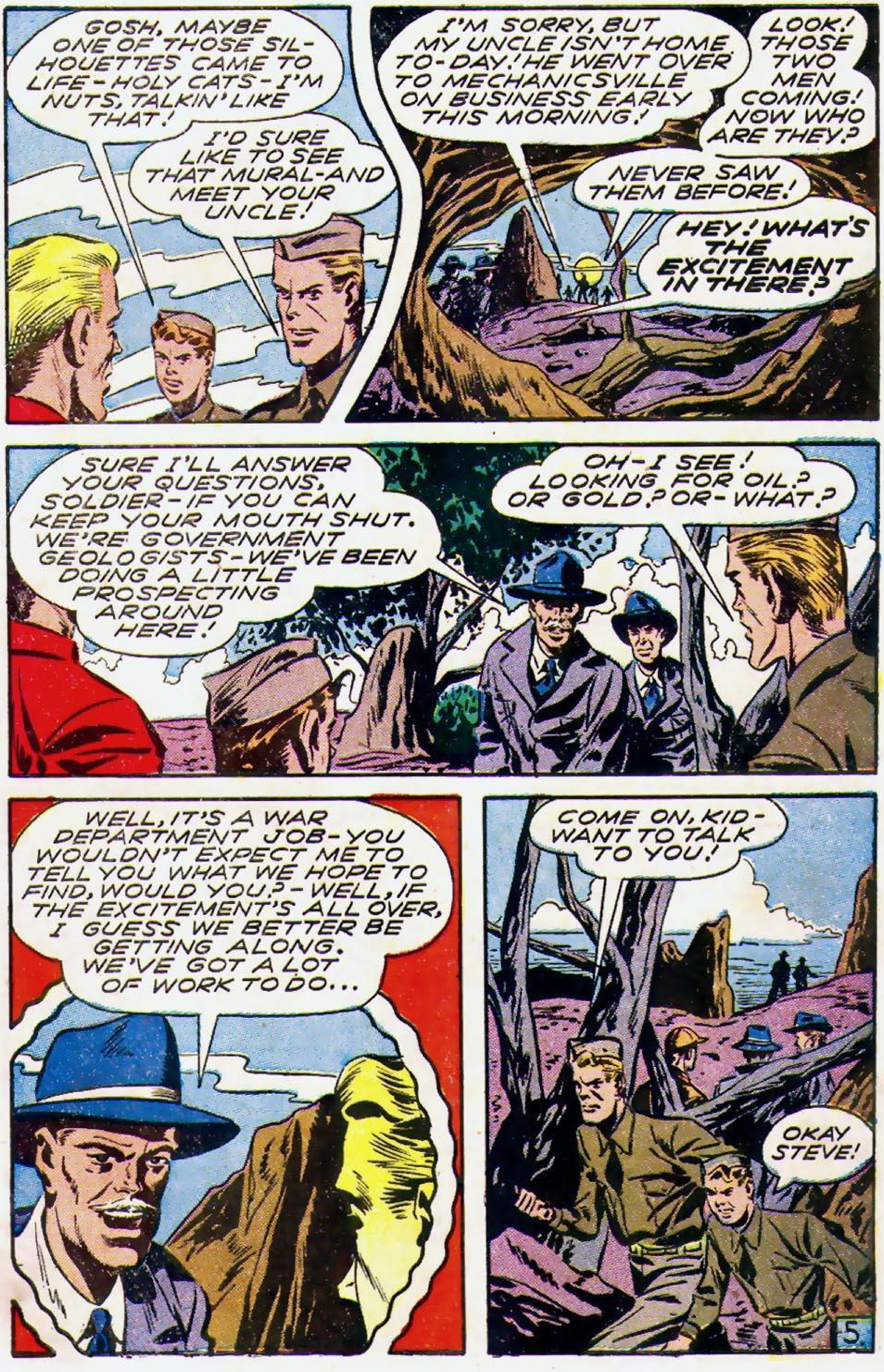
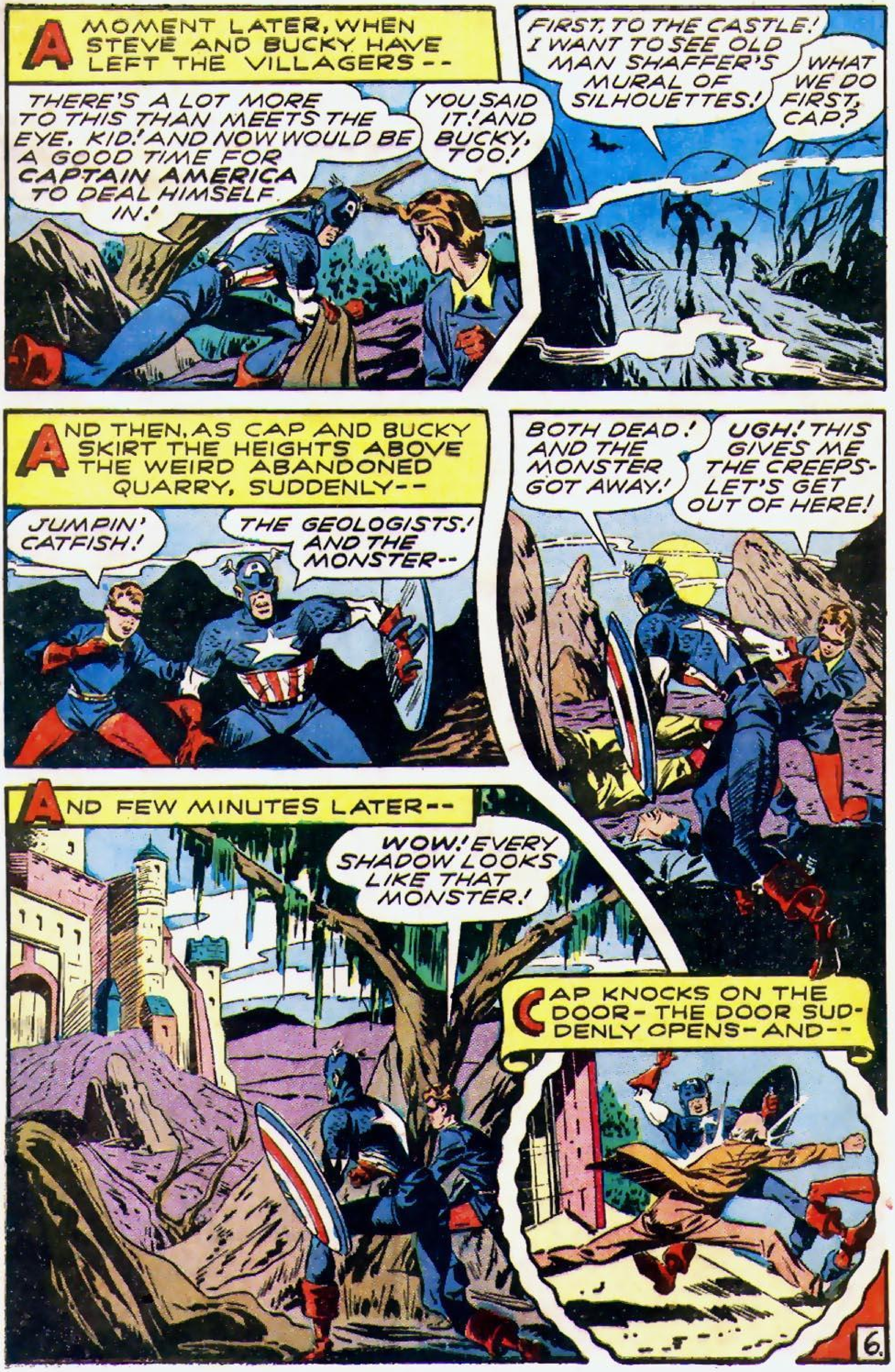
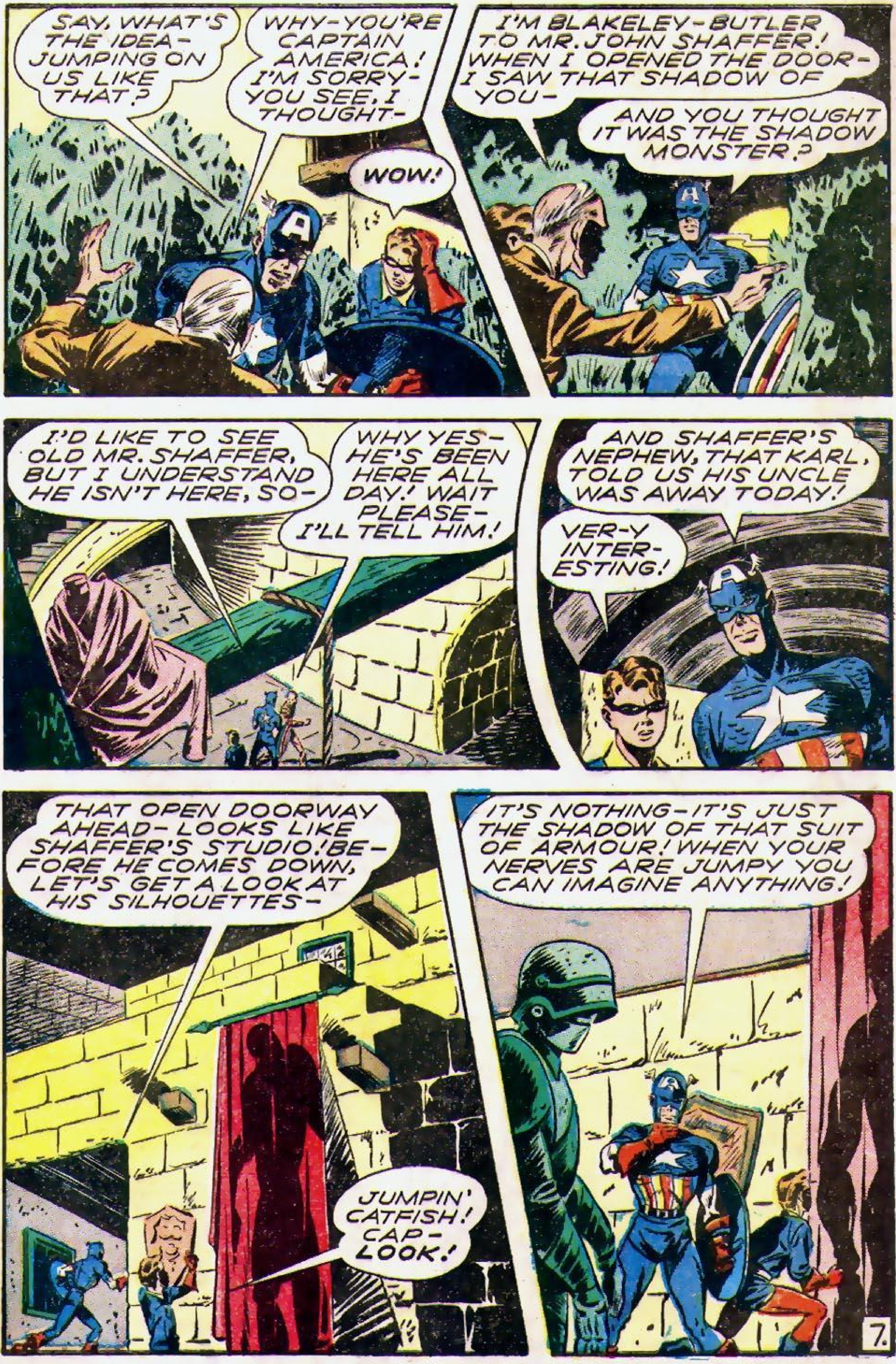
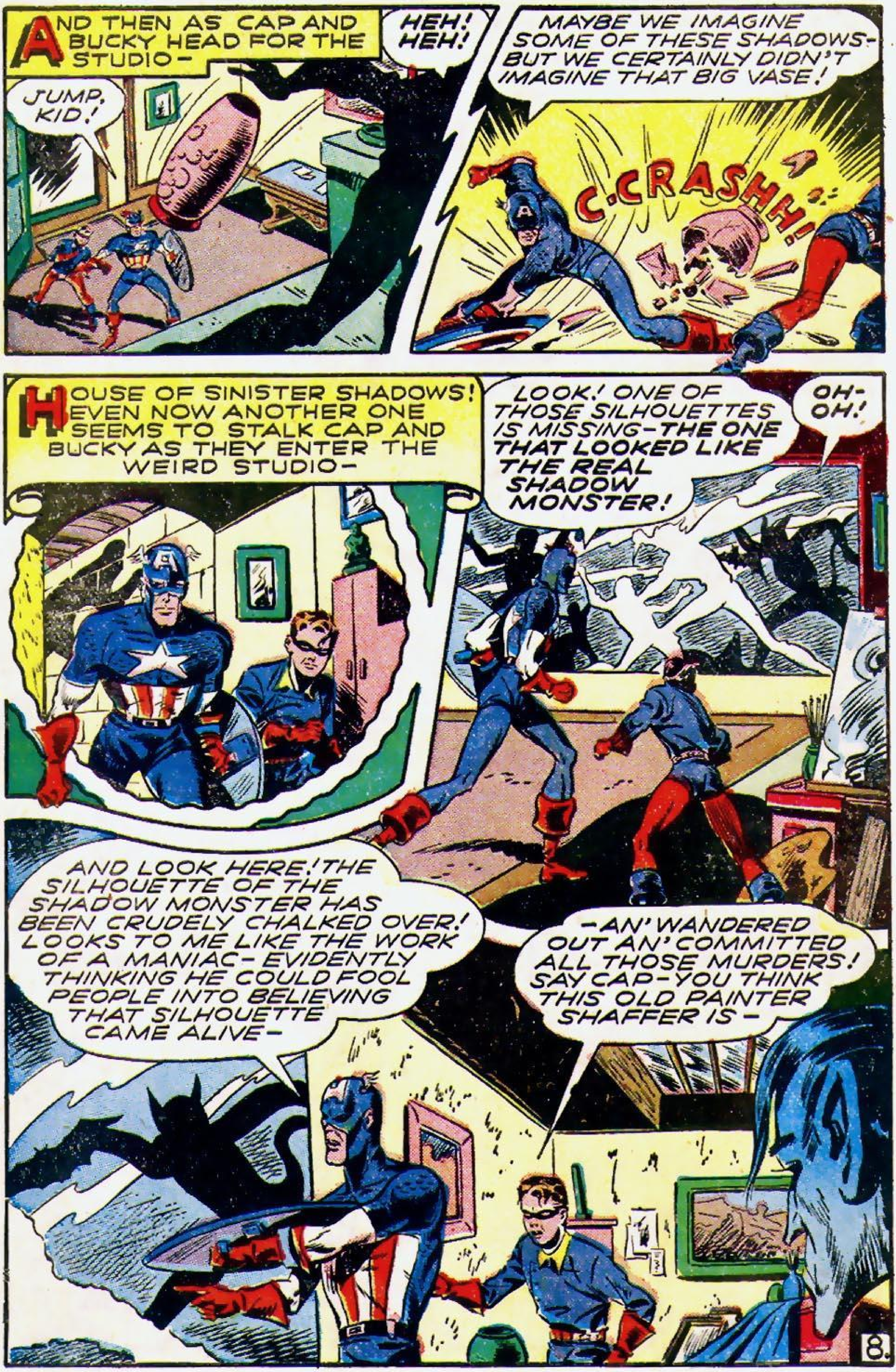

ONE OF THE BOYS CHASES THE BALL INTO THE OLD, ABANDONED QUARRY, AND THEN—
HELP!
SAY, RED'S BEEN GONE A LONG TIME AFTER THAT BALL--
LISTEN, IS THAT HIM YELLIN' FOR HELP?
THE SHADOW MONSTER! HE'S KILLIN' RED!
RUN! RUN!
WE GOTTA GET HELP!
AND AT THAT SAME MOMENT, AS U.S. ARMY PRIVATES STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES RETURN FROM FURLOUGH-ALONG A NEARLY ROAD—
HOLY CATS! LOOK OUT, STEVE!
CRASH!!
HELP! HELP!
HEY, LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT?
JUMPIN' CATFISH! THAT'S THAT SHADOW MONSTER WE'VE BEEN HEARIN' ABOUT!
COME ON!
HEH! HEH!..

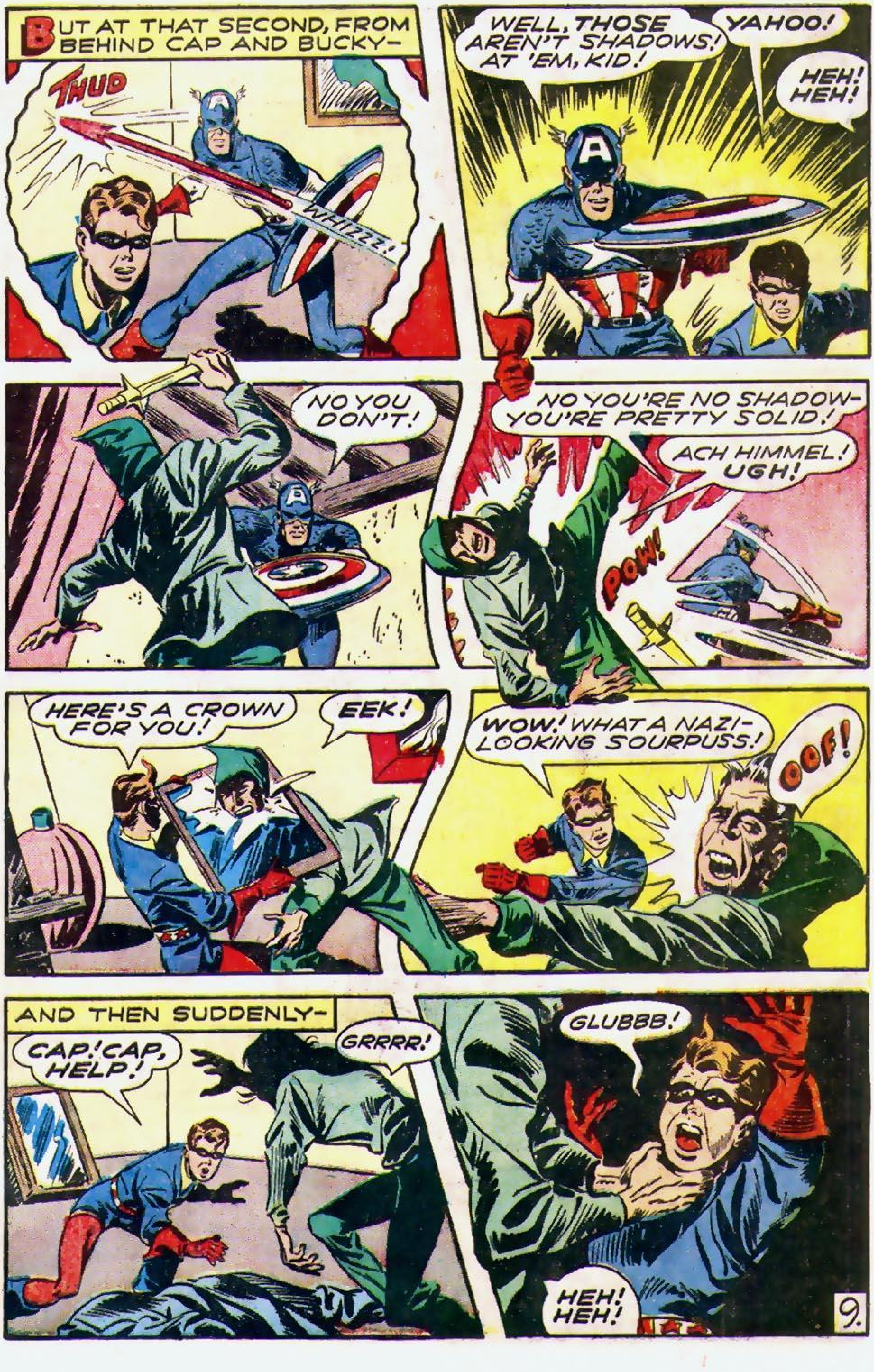

AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER-
IT'S RED MCINTYRE! HIS NECK'S BROKEN! STRANGLED--
IT WAS THE SHADOW MONSTER- HE KILLED RED MCINTYRE! RED WAS CHASIN' A BALL IN HERE, AN'-
SOME REASON WHY THAT MONSTER DIDN'T WANT THE KID IN THERE, MAYBE?
SAY--MAYBE THAT BOULDER DIDN'T FALL ON US BY ACCIDENT, STEVE!
HERE COMES YOUNG KARL SHAFFER- MAYBE HE KNOWS SOMETHING-
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HE LIVES WITH HIS UNCLE IN THAT CASTLE UP THERE ON THE HILL, KARL DOES-
MY PAL BUCKY AND I SAW IT, FROM UP THERE BY THE CLIFF ROAD! IT WAS STRANGLING THE KID! WE CHASED IT, BUT IT GOT AWAY!
QUEER! I NEVER THOUGHT THAT MONSTER EXISTED! BUT THIS IS CERTAINLY PROOF IT'S MORE THAN A SHADOW!
MIGHTY QUEER STUFF! YOU SEE--MY UNCLE JOHN, HE'S PAINTING A MURAL, BIG LIFE-SIZE FIGURES--AND, BY COINCIDENCE, THEY'RE ALL IN SILHOUETTE-
"-AND THE WAY YOU DESCRIBE THIS MONSTER, IT SOUNDS SOMETHING LIKE ONE MY UNCLE'S PAINTING NOW-"

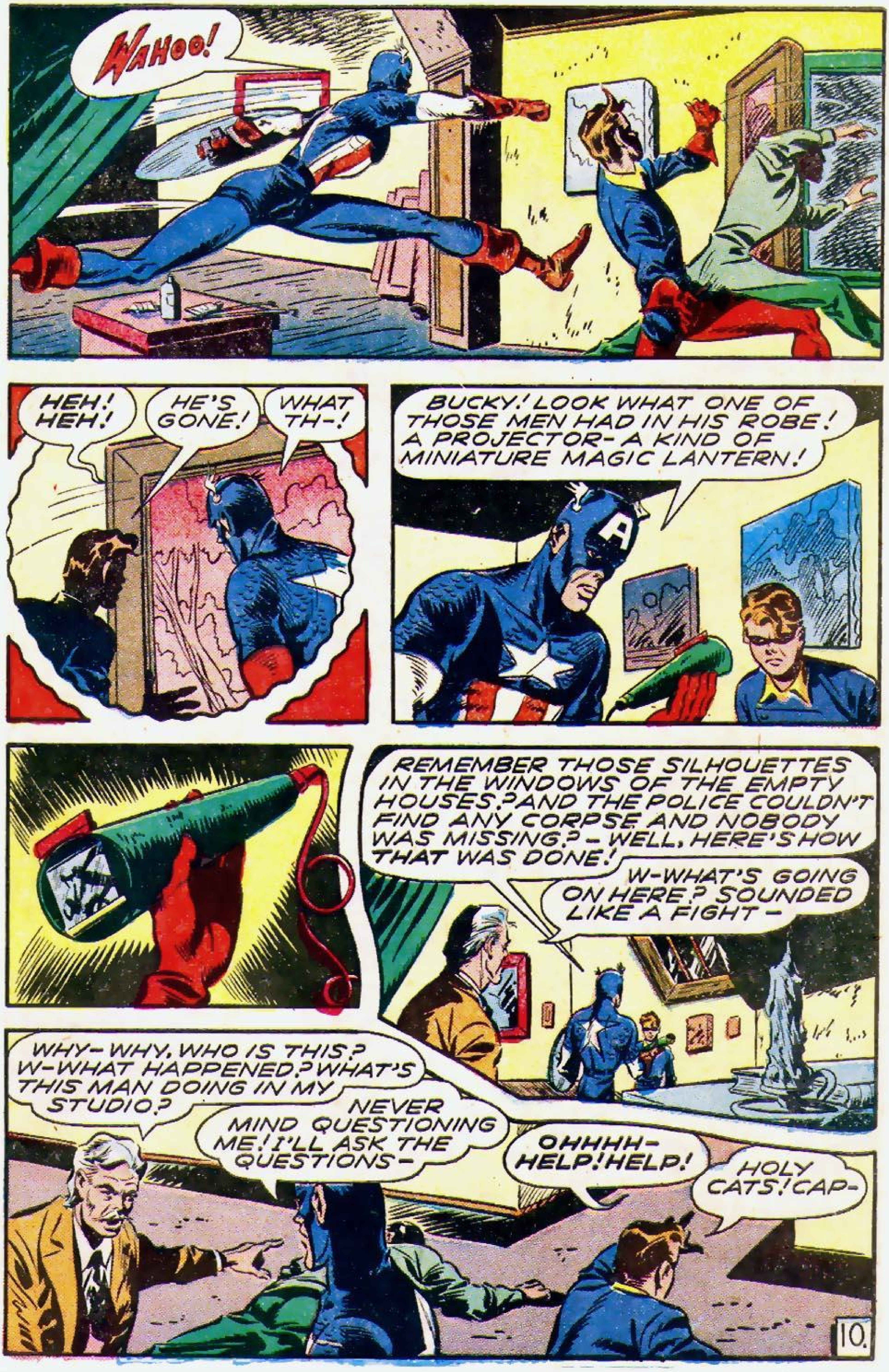

GOSH, MAYBE ONE OF THOSE SILHOUETTES CAME TO LIFE - HOLY CATS - I'M NUTS, TALKIN' LIKE THAT!
I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE THAT MURAL - AND MEET YOUR UNCLE!
I'M SORRY, BUT MY UNCLE ISN'T HOME TO-DAY! HE WENT OVER TO MECHANICSVILLE ON BUSINESS EARLY THIS MORNING!
LOOK! THOSE TWO MEN COMING! NOW WHO ARE THEY?
NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE!
HEY! WHAT'S THE EXCITEMENT IN THERE?
SURE I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, SOLDIER - IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT. WE'RE GOVERNMENT GEOLOGISTS - WE'VE BEEN DOING A LITTLE PROSPECTING AROUND HERE!
OH - I SEE! LOOKING FOR OIL? OR GOLD? OR - WHAT?
WELL, IT'S A WAR DEPARTMENT JOB - YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT ME TO TELL YOU WHAT WE HOPE TO FIND, WOULD YOU? - WELL, IF THE EXCITEMENT'S ALL OVER, I GUESS WE BETTER BE GETTING ALONG. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO...
COME ON, KID - WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
OKAY STEVE!

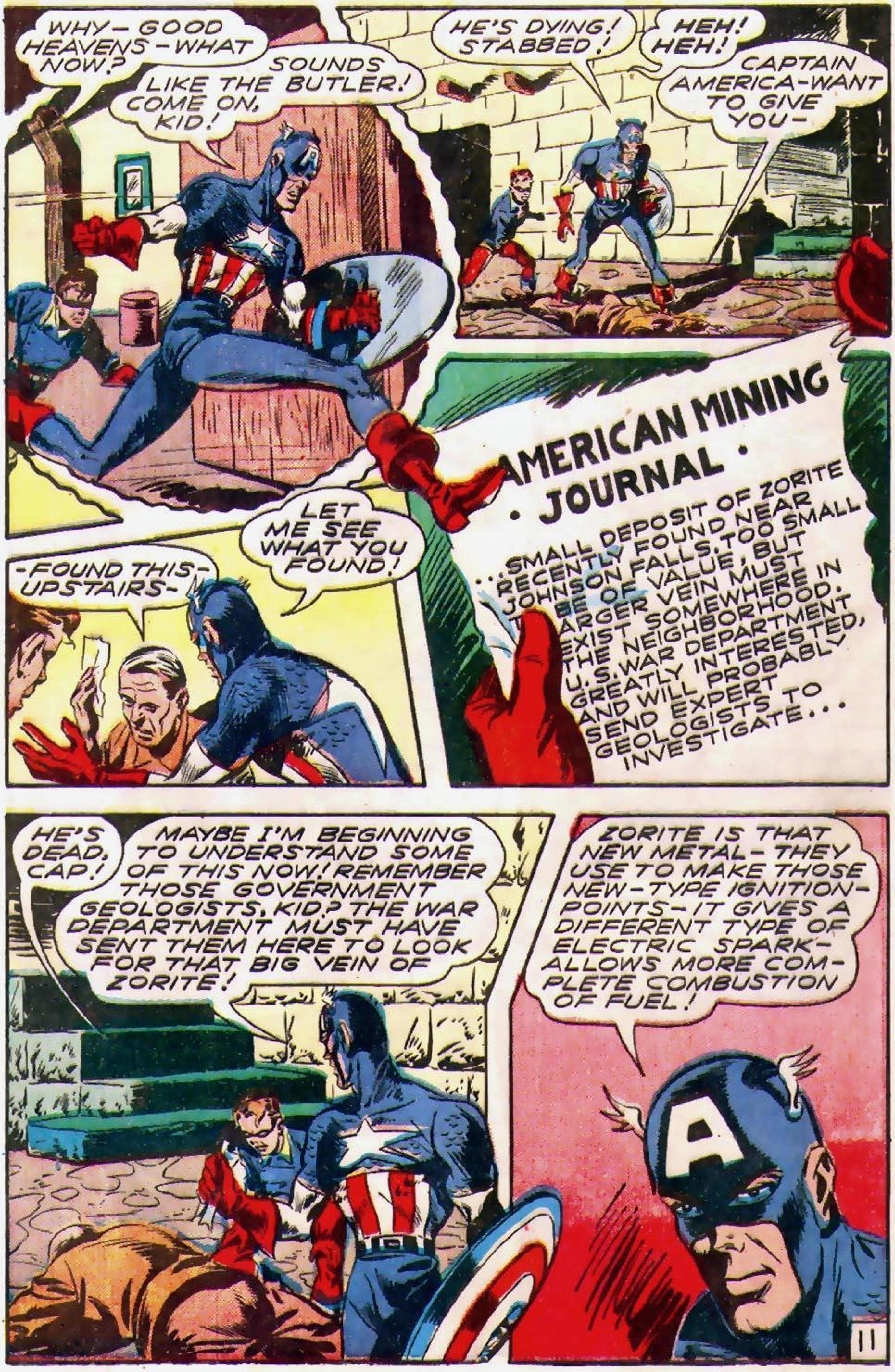

A MOMENT LATER, WHEN STEVE AND BUCKY HAVE LEFT THE VILLAGERS --
THERE'S A LOT MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE, KID! AND NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA TO DEAL HIMSELF IN!
YOU SAID IT! AND BUCKY, TOO!
WHAT WE DO FIRST, CAP?
FIRST, TO THE CASTLE! I WANT TO SEE OLD MAN SHAFFER'S MURAL OF SILHOUETTES!
AND THEN, AS CAP AND BUCKY SKIRT THE HEIGHTS ABOVE THE WEIRD ABANDONED QUARRY, SUDDENLY --
JUMPIN' CATFISH!
THE GEOLOGISTS! AND THE MONSTER --
BOTH DEAD! AND THE MONSTER GOT AWAY!
UGH! THIS GIVES ME THE CREEPS -- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
AND FEW MINUTES LATER --
WOW! EVERY SHADOW LOOKS LIKE THAT MONSTER!
CAP KNOCKS ON THE DOOR - THE DOOR SUDDENLY OPENS - AND --

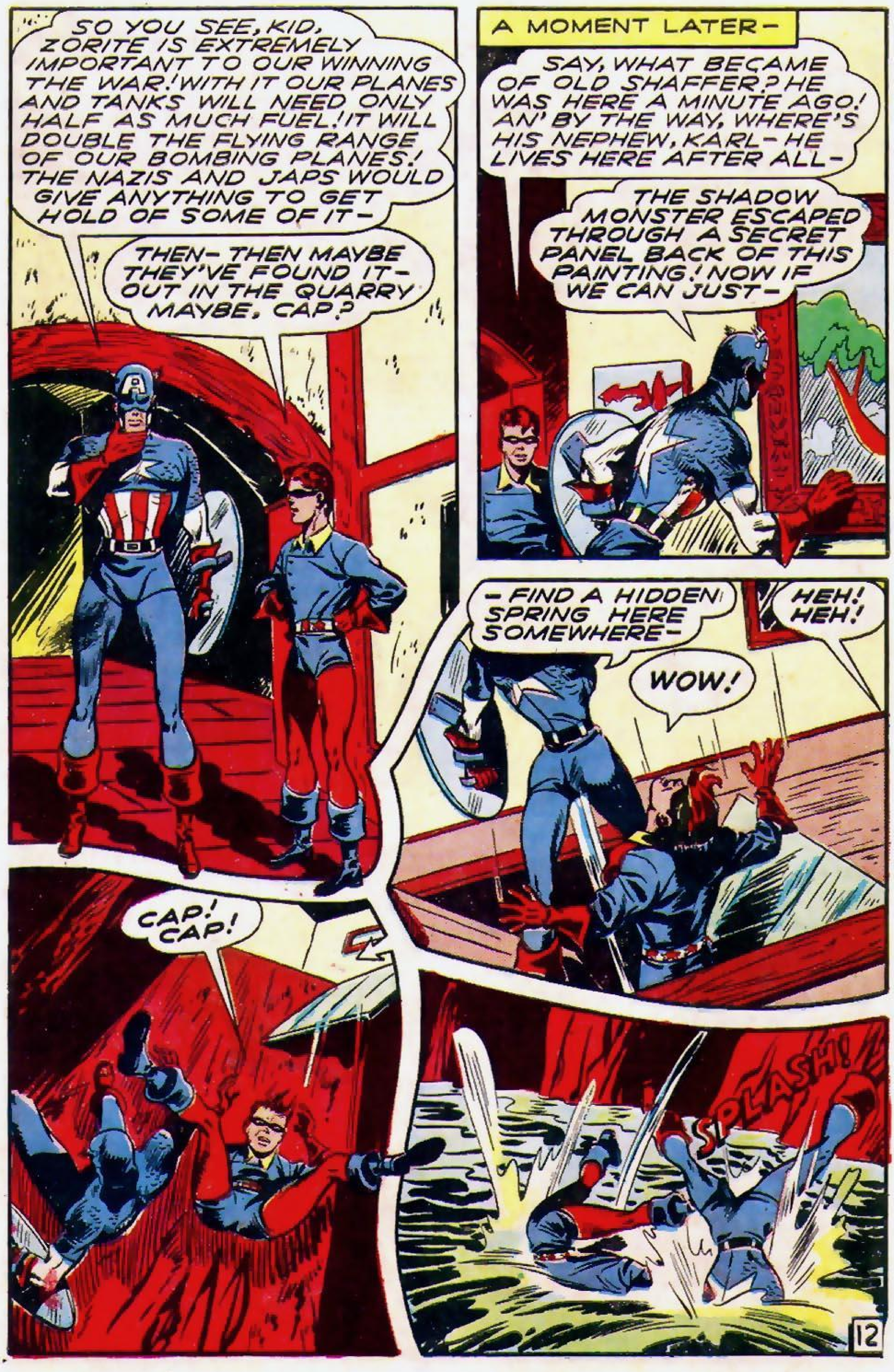

SAY, WHAT'S THE IDEA- JUMPING ON US LIKE THAT?
WHY-YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA! I'M SORRY- YOU SEE, I THOUGHT-
WOW!
I'M BLAKELEY-BUTLER TO MR. JOHN SHAFFER! WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR- I SAW THAT SHADOW OF YOU-
AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS THE SHADOW MONSTER?
I'D LIKE TO SEE OLD MR. SHAFFER, BUT I UNDERSTAND HE ISN'T HERE, SO-
WHY YES- HE'S BEEN HERE ALL DAY! WAIT PLEASE- I'LL TELL HIM!
AND SHAFFER'S NEPHEW, THAT KARL, TOLD US HIS UNCLE WAS AWAY TODAY!
VER-Y INTERESTING!
THAT OPEN DOORWAY AHEAD- LOOKS LIKE SHAFFER'S STUDIO! BEFORE HE COMES DOWN, LET'S GET A LOOK AT HIS SILHOUETTES-
JUMPIN' CATFISH! CAP- LOOK!
IT'S NOTHING- IT'S JUST THE SHADOW OF THAT SUIT OF ARMOUR! WHEN YOUR NERVES ARE JUMPY YOU CAN IMAGINE ANYTHING!

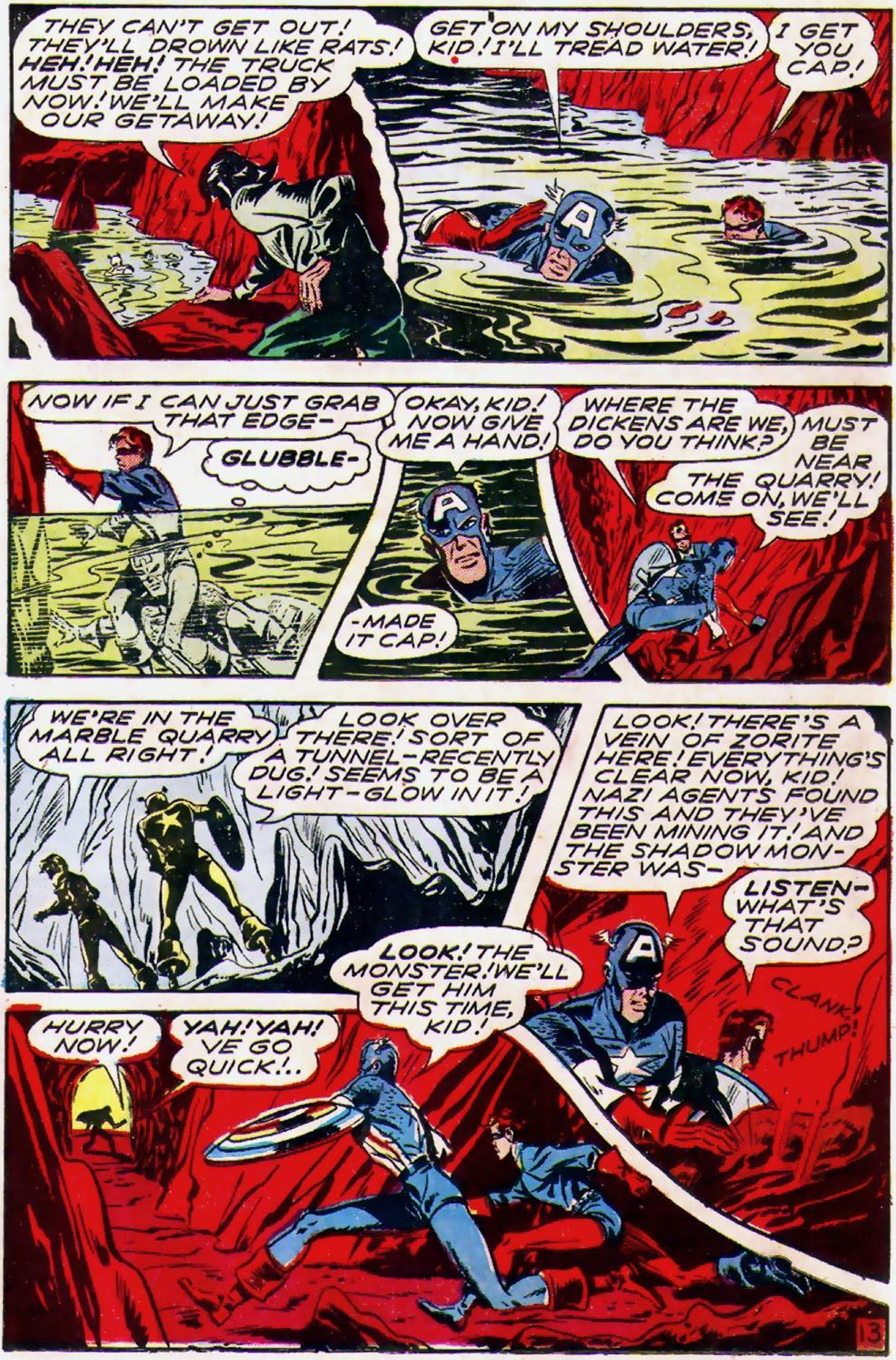

AND THEN AS CAP AND BUCKY HEAD FOR THE STUDIO—
HEH! HEH!
JUMP, KID!
MAYBE WE IMAGINE SOME OF THESE SHADOWS—BUT WE CERTAINLY DIDN'T IMAGINE THAT BIG VASE!
C-CRASHH!
HOUSE OF SINISTER SHADOWS! EVEN NOW ANOTHER ONE SEEMS TO STALK CAP AND BUCKY AS THEY ENTER THE WEIRD STUDIO—
LOOK! ONE OF THOSE SILHOUETTES IS MISSING—THE ONE THAT LOOKED LIKE THE REAL SHADOW MONSTER!
OH-OH!
AND LOOK HERE! THE SILHOUETTE OF THE SHADOW MONSTER HAS BEEN CRUDELY CHALKED OVER! LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE WORK OF A MANIAC—EVIDENTLY THINKING HE COULD FOOL PEOPLE INTO BELIEVING THAT SILHOUETTE CAME ALIVE—
—AN' WANDERED OUT AN' COMMITTED ALL THOSE MURDERS! SAY CAP—YOU THINK THIS OLD PAINTER SHAFFER IS—

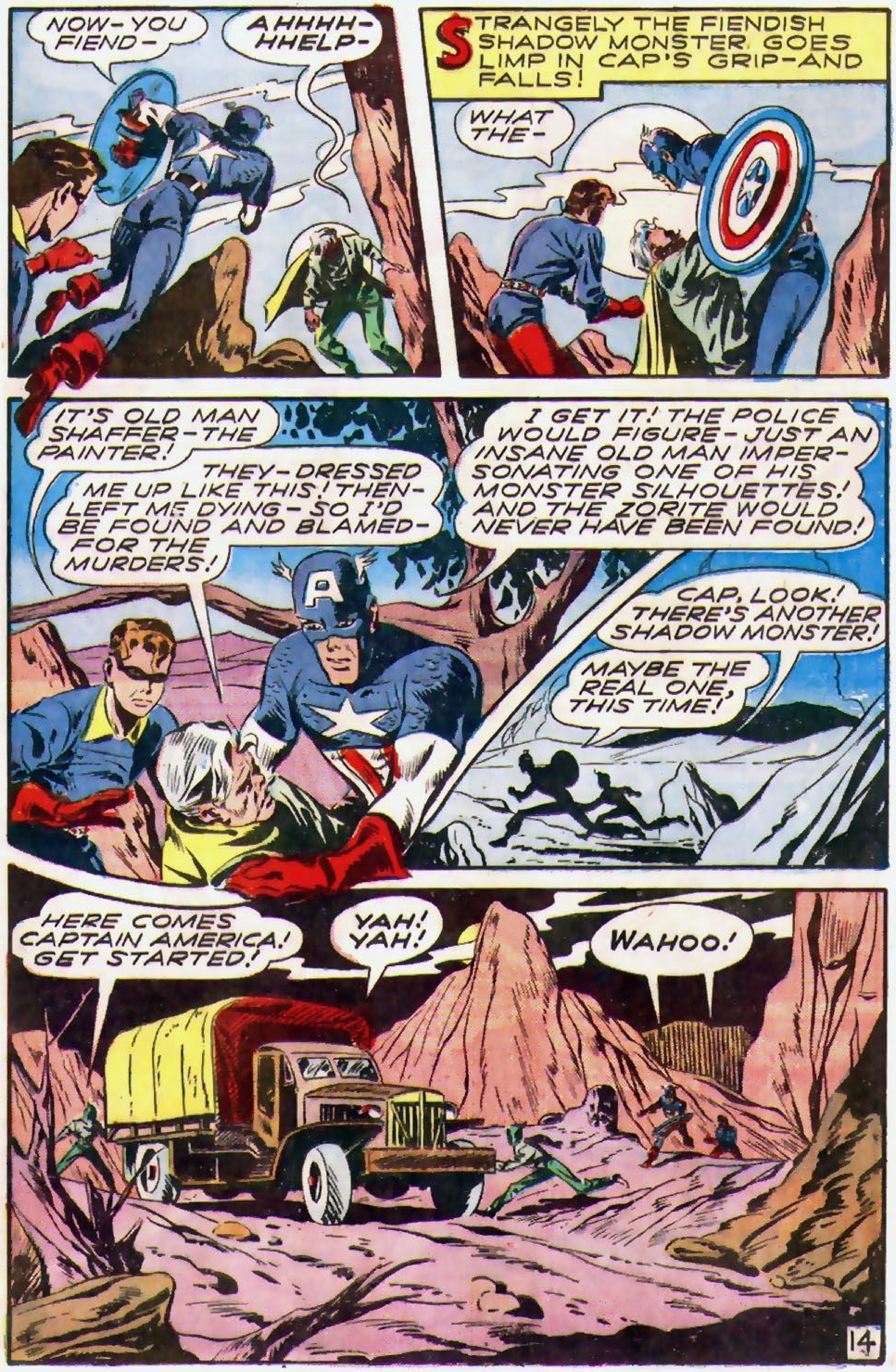

BUT AT THAT SECOND, FROM BEHIND CAP AND BUCKY–
THUD
WHIZZZ!
WELL, THOSE AREN'T SHADOWS! AT 'EM, KID!
YAHOO!
HEH! HEH!
NO YOU DON'T!
NO YOU'RE NO SHADOW– YOU'RE PRETTY SOLID!
ACH HIMMEL! UGH!
POW!
HERE'S A CROWN FOR YOU!
EEK!
WOW! WHAT A NAZI-LOOKING SOURPUSS!
OOF!
AND THEN SUDDENLY–
CAP! CAP, HELP!
GRRRR!
GLUBBB!
HEH! HEH!

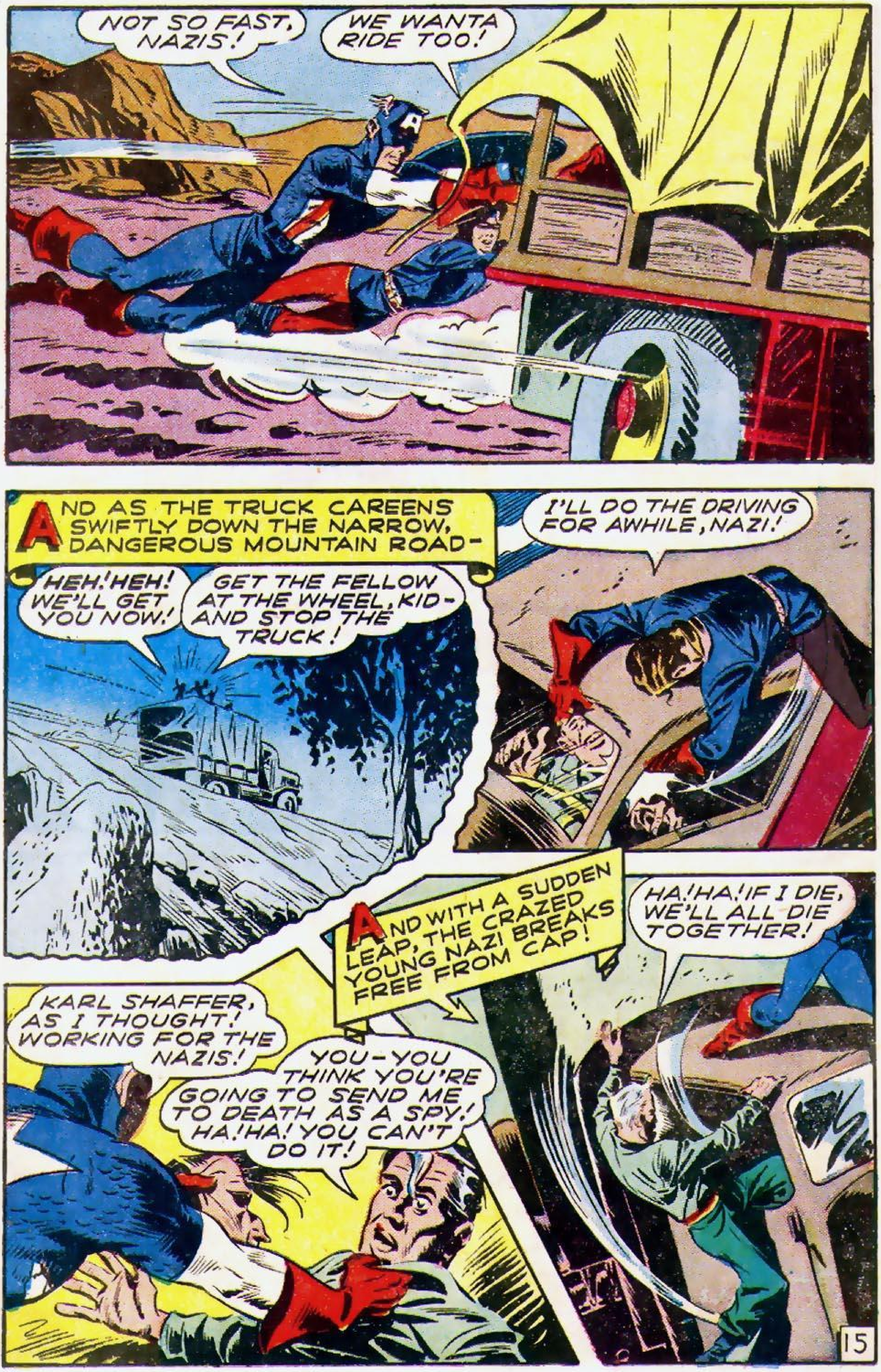

WAHOO!
HEH! HEH!
HE'S GONE!
WHAT TH-!
BUCKY! LOOK WHAT ONE OF THOSE MEN HAD IN HIS ROBE! A PROJECTOR- A KIND OF MINIATURE MAGIC LANTERN!
REMEMBER THOSE SILHOUETTES IN THE WINDOWS OF THE EMPTY HOUSES? AND THE POLICE COULDN'T FIND ANY CORPSE AND NOBODY WAS MISSING? - WELL, HERE'S HOW THAT WAS DONE!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? SOUNDED LIKE A FIGHT -
WHY- WHY, WHO IS THIS? W-WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S THIS MAN DOING IN MY STUDIO?
NEVER MIND QUESTIONING ME! I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS-
OHHHH- HELP! HELP!
HOLY CATS! CAP-

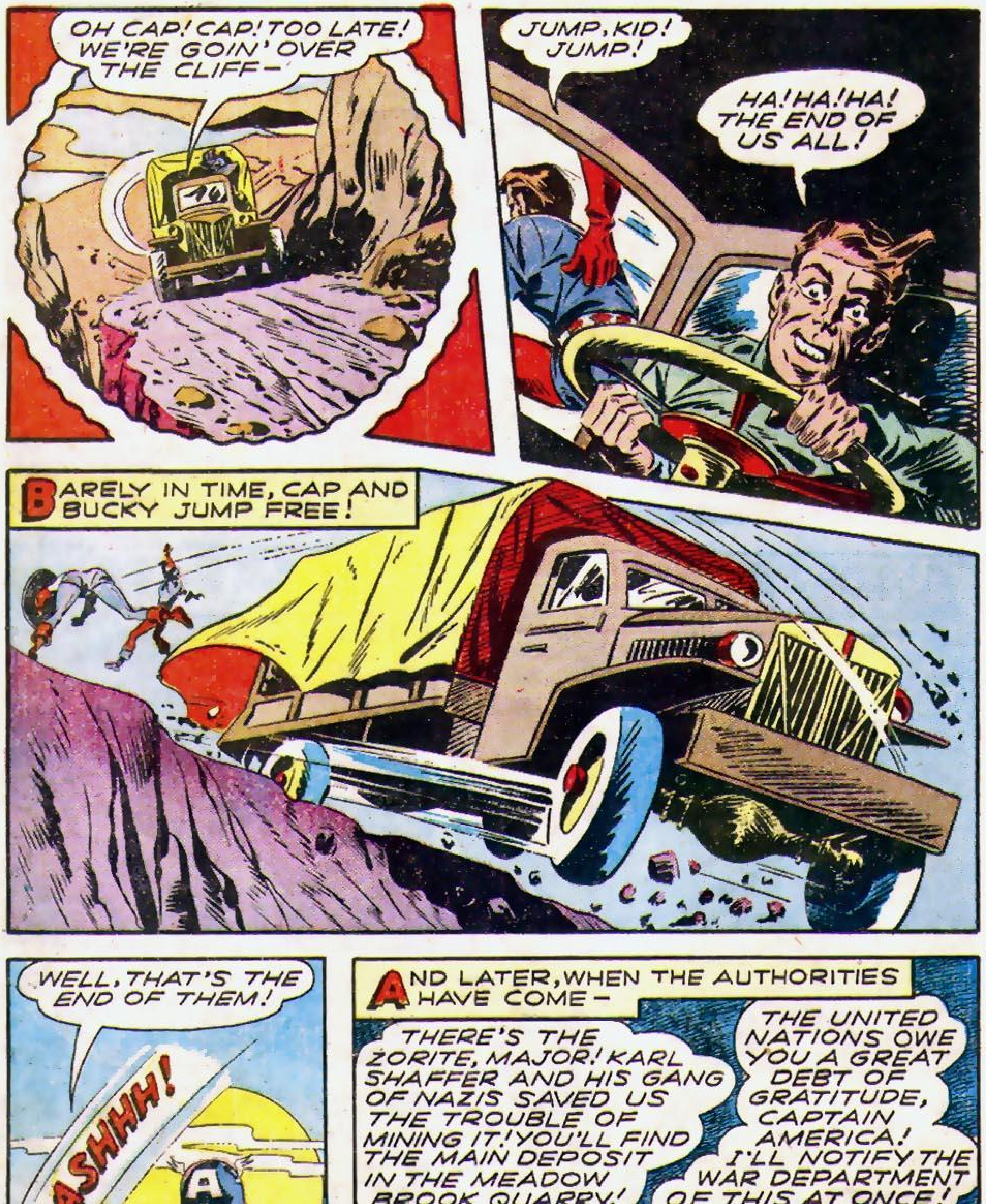

WHY-GOOD HEAVENS-WHAT NOW?
SOUNDS LIKE THE BUTLER! COME ON, KID!
HE'S DYING! STABBED!
HEH! HEH!
CAPTAIN AMERICA-WANT TO GIVE YOU-
AMERICAN MINING JOURNAL
...SMALL DEPOSIT OF ZORITE RECENTLY FOUND NEAR JOHNSON FALLS. TOO SMALL TO BE OF VALUE, BUT LARGER VEIN MUST EXIST SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. U.S. WAR DEPARTMENT GREATLY INTERESTED, AND WILL PROBABLY SEND EXPERT GEOLOGISTS TO INVESTIGATE...
-FOUND THIS-UPSTAIRS-
LET ME SEE WHAT YOU FOUND!
HE'S DEAD, CAP!
MAYBE I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THIS NOW! REMEMBER THOSE GOVERNMENT GEOLOGISTS, KID? THE WAR DEPARTMENT MUST HAVE SENT THEM HERE TO LOOK FOR THAT BIG VEIN OF ZORITE!
ZORITE IS THAT NEW METAL-THEY USE TO MAKE THOSE NEW-TYPE IGNITION-POINTS-IT GIVES A DIFFERENT TYPE OF ELECTRIC SPARK-ALLOWS MORE COMPLETE COMBUSTION OF FUEL!

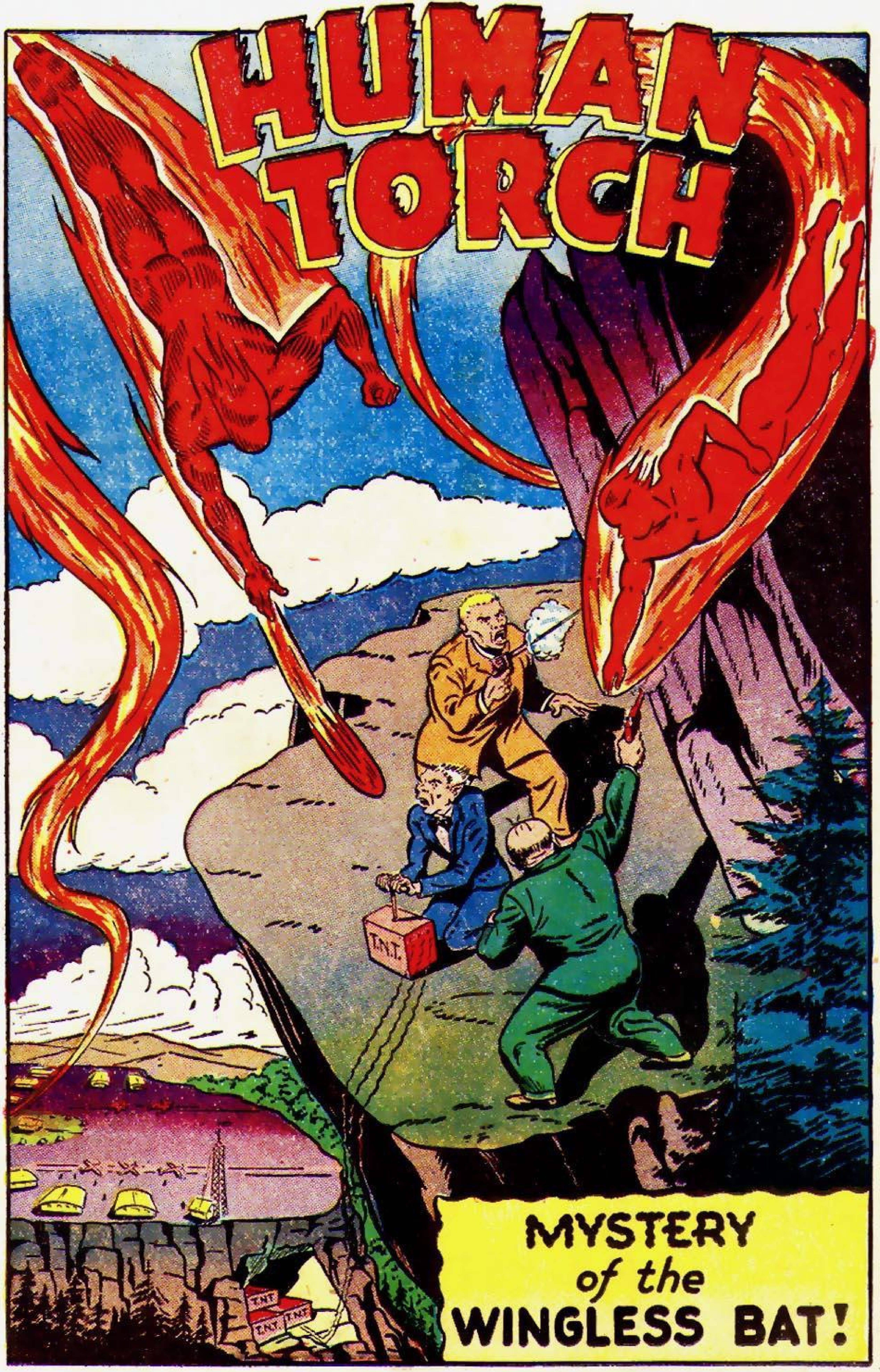

SO YOU SEE, KID, ZORITE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR WINNING THE WAR! WITH IT OUR PLANES AND TANKS WILL NEED ONLY HALF AS MUCH FUEL! IT WILL DOUBLE THE FLYING RANGE OF OUR BOMBING PLANES! THE NAZIS AND JAPS WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO GET HOLD OF SOME OF IT—
THEN— THEN MAYBE THEY'VE FOUND IT— OUT IN THE QUARRY MAYBE, CAP?
A MOMENT LATER—
SAY, WHAT BECAME OF OLD SHAFFER? HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO! AN' BY THE WAY, WHERE'S HIS NEPHEW, KARL— HE LIVES HERE AFTER ALL—
THE SHADOW MONSTER ESCAPED THROUGH A SECRET PANEL BACK OF THIS PAINTING! NOW IF WE CAN JUST—
—FIND A HIDDEN SPRING HERE SOMEWHERE—
HEH! HEH!
WOW!
CAP! CAP!
SPLASH!

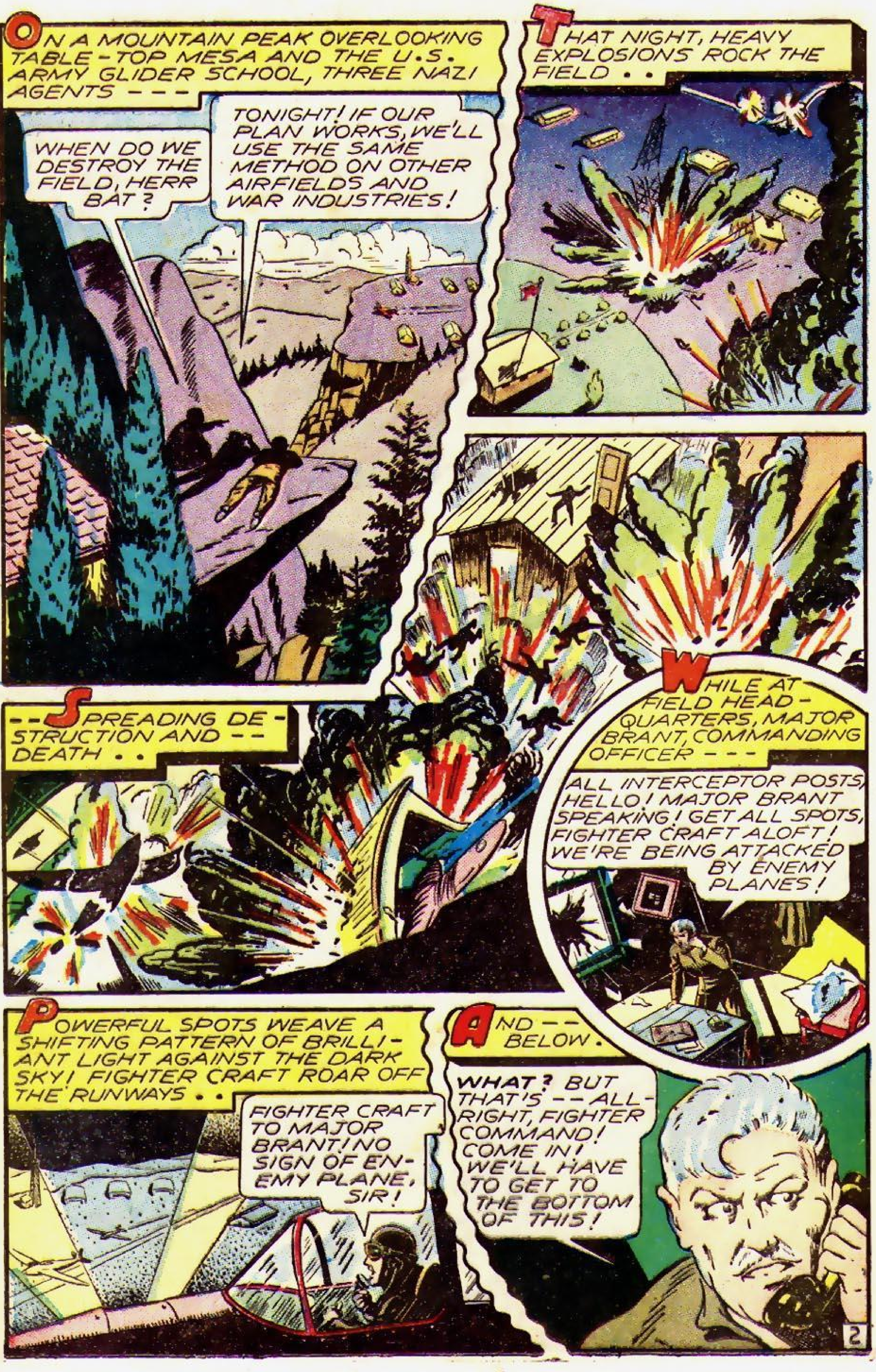

THEY CAN'T GET OUT! THEY'LL DROWN LIKE RATS! **HEH! HEH!** THE TRUCK MUST BE LOADED BY NOW! WE'LL MAKE OUR GETAWAY!
GET ON MY SHOULDERS, KID! I'LL TREAD WATER!
I GET YOU CAP!
NOW IF I CAN JUST GRAB THAT EDGE–
GLUBBLE–
OKAY, KID! NOW GIVE ME A HAND!
-MADE IT CAP!
WHERE THE DICKENS ARE WE, DO YOU THINK?
MUST BE NEAR THE QUARRY! COME ON, WE'LL SEE!
WE'RE IN THE MARBLE QUARRY ALL RIGHT!
LOOK OVER THERE! SORT OF A TUNNEL–RECENTLY DUG! SEEMS TO BE A LIGHT–GLOW IN IT!
LOOK! THERE'S A VEIN OF ZORITE HERE! EVERYTHING'S CLEAR NOW, KID! NAZI AGENTS FOUND THIS AND THEY'VE BEEN MINING IT! AND THE SHADOW MONSTER WAS–
LISTEN– WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
CLANK! THUMP!
HURRY NOW!
YAH! YAH! VE GO QUICK!..
LOOK! THE MONSTER! WE'LL GET HIM THIS TIME, KID!

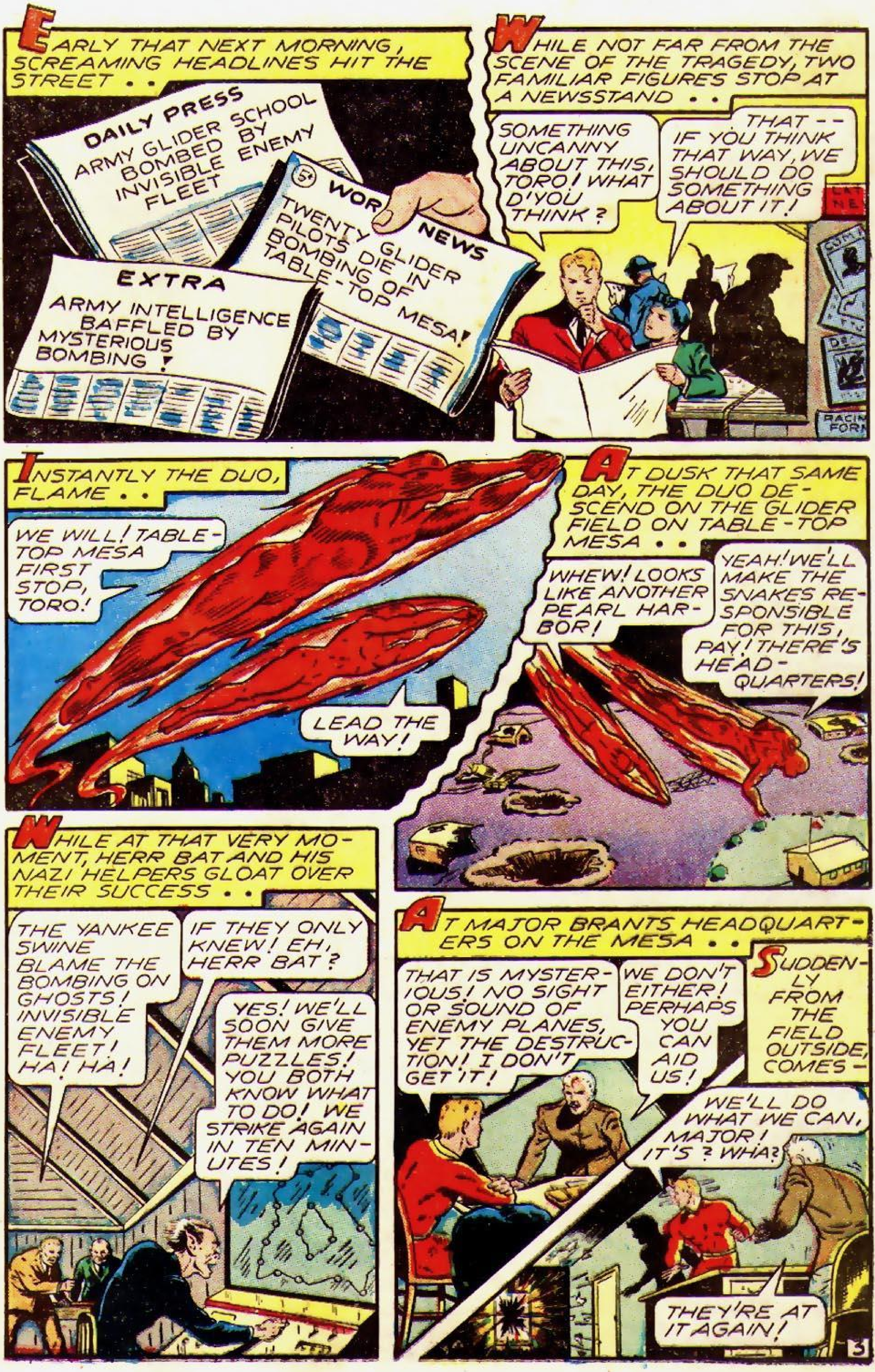

NOW–YOU FIEND–
AHHHH–HHELP–
STRANGELY THE FIENDISH SHADOW MONSTER GOES LIMP IN CAP'S GRIP–AND FALLS!
WHAT THE–
IT'S OLD MAN SHAFFER–THE PAINTER!
THEY–DRESSED ME UP LIKE THIS! THEN–LEFT ME DYING–SO I'D BE FOUND AND BLAMED–FOR THE MURDERS!
I GET IT! THE POLICE WOULD FIGURE–JUST AN INSANE OLD MAN IMPERSONATING ONE OF HIS MONSTER SILHOUETTES! AND THE ZORITE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUND!
CAP, LOOK! THERE'S ANOTHER SHADOW MONSTER!
MAYBE THE REAL ONE, THIS TIME!
HERE COMES CAPTAIN AMERICA! GET STARTED!
YAH! YAH!
WAHOO!

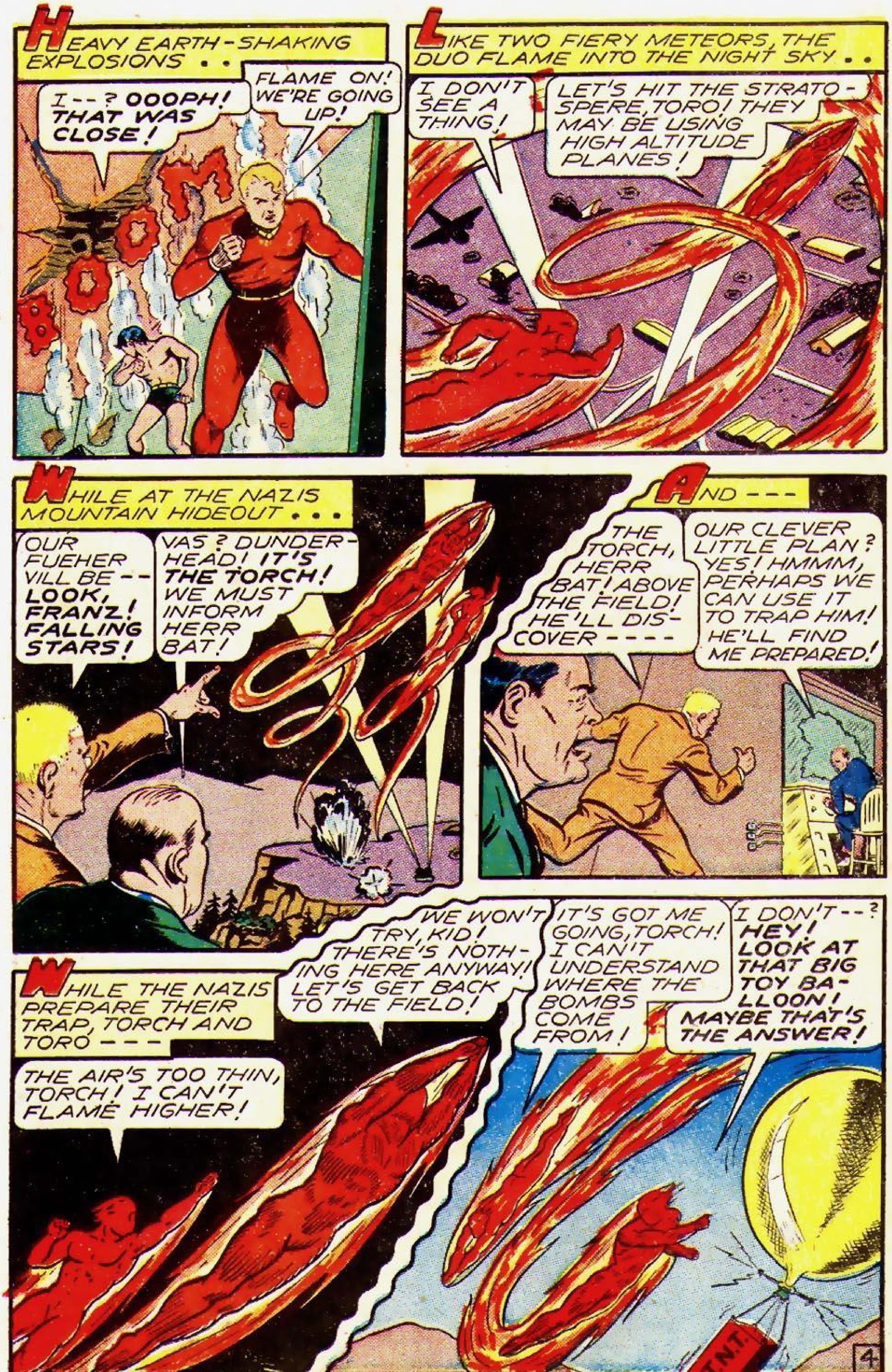

NOT SO FAST, NAZIS!
WE WANTA RIDE TOO!
AND AS THE TRUCK CAREENS SWIFTLY DOWN THE NARROW, DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN ROAD—
HEH! HEH! WE'LL GET YOU NOW!
GET THE FELLOW AT THE WHEEL, KID—AND STOP THE TRUCK!
I'LL DO THE DRIVING FOR AWHILE, NAZI!
KARL SHAFFER, AS I THOUGHT! WORKING FOR THE NAZIS!
YOU—YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SEND ME TO DEATH AS A SPY! HA! HA! YOU CAN'T DO IT!
AND WITH A SUDDEN LEAP, THE CRAZED YOUNG NAZI BREAKS FREE FROM CAP!
HA! HA! IF I DIE, WE'LL ALL DIE TOGETHER!

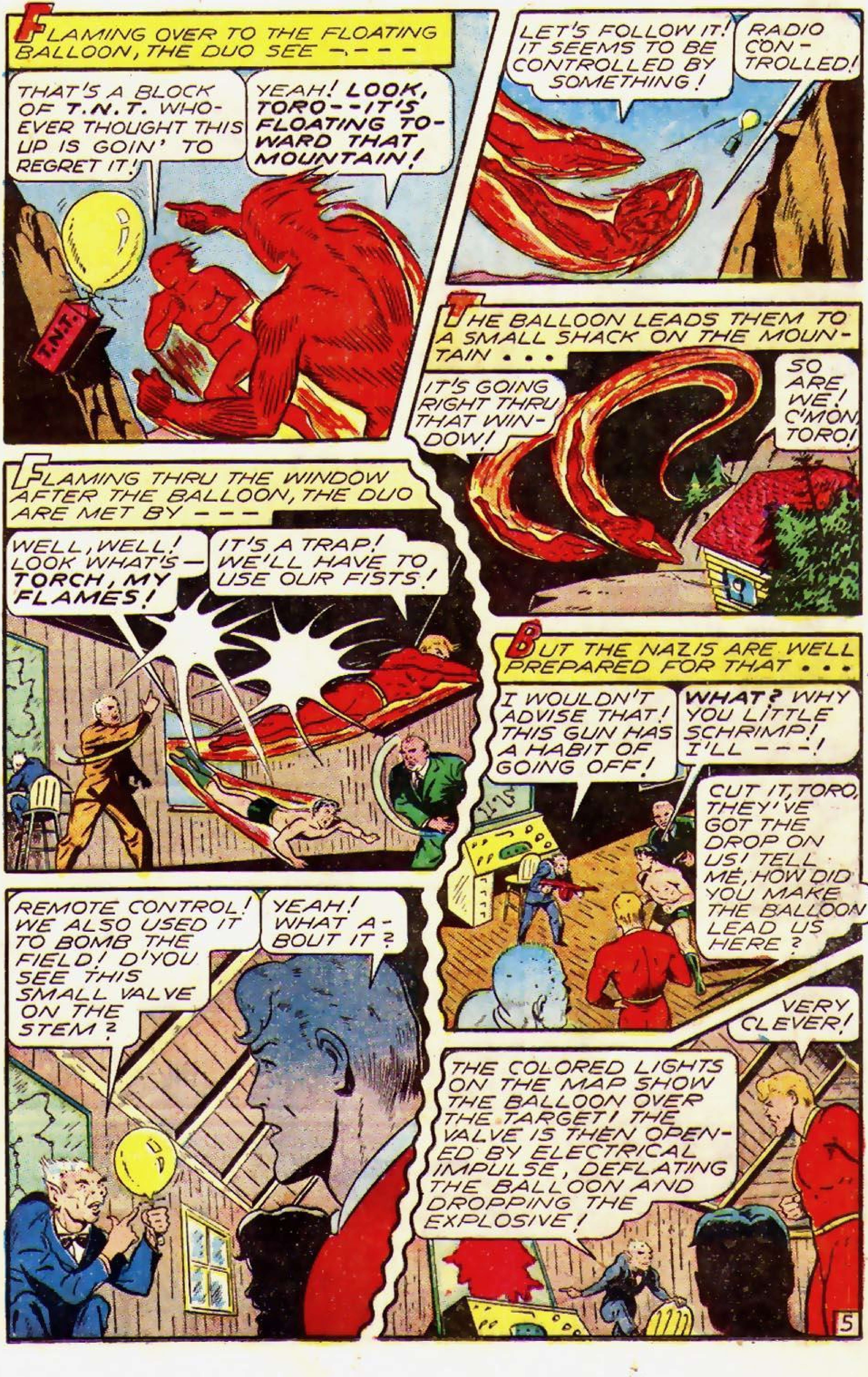

OH CAP! CAP! TOO LATE! WE'RE GOIN' OVER THE CLIFF—
JUMP, KID! JUMP!
HA! HA! HA! THE END OF US ALL!
BARELY IN TIME, CAP AND BUCKY JUMP FREE!
WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THEM!
CRASHHH!
AND LATER, WHEN THE AUTHORITIES HAVE COME—
THERE'S THE ZORITE, MAJOR! KARL SHAFFER AND HIS GANG OF NAZIS SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF MINING IT! YOU'LL FIND THE MAIN DEPOSIT IN THE MEADOW BROOK QUARRY!
THE UNITED NATIONS OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE, CAPTAIN AMERICA! I'LL NOTIFY THE WAR DEPARTMENT OF THIS AT ONCE!
IT WAS A PLEASURE, MAJOR!
THE END

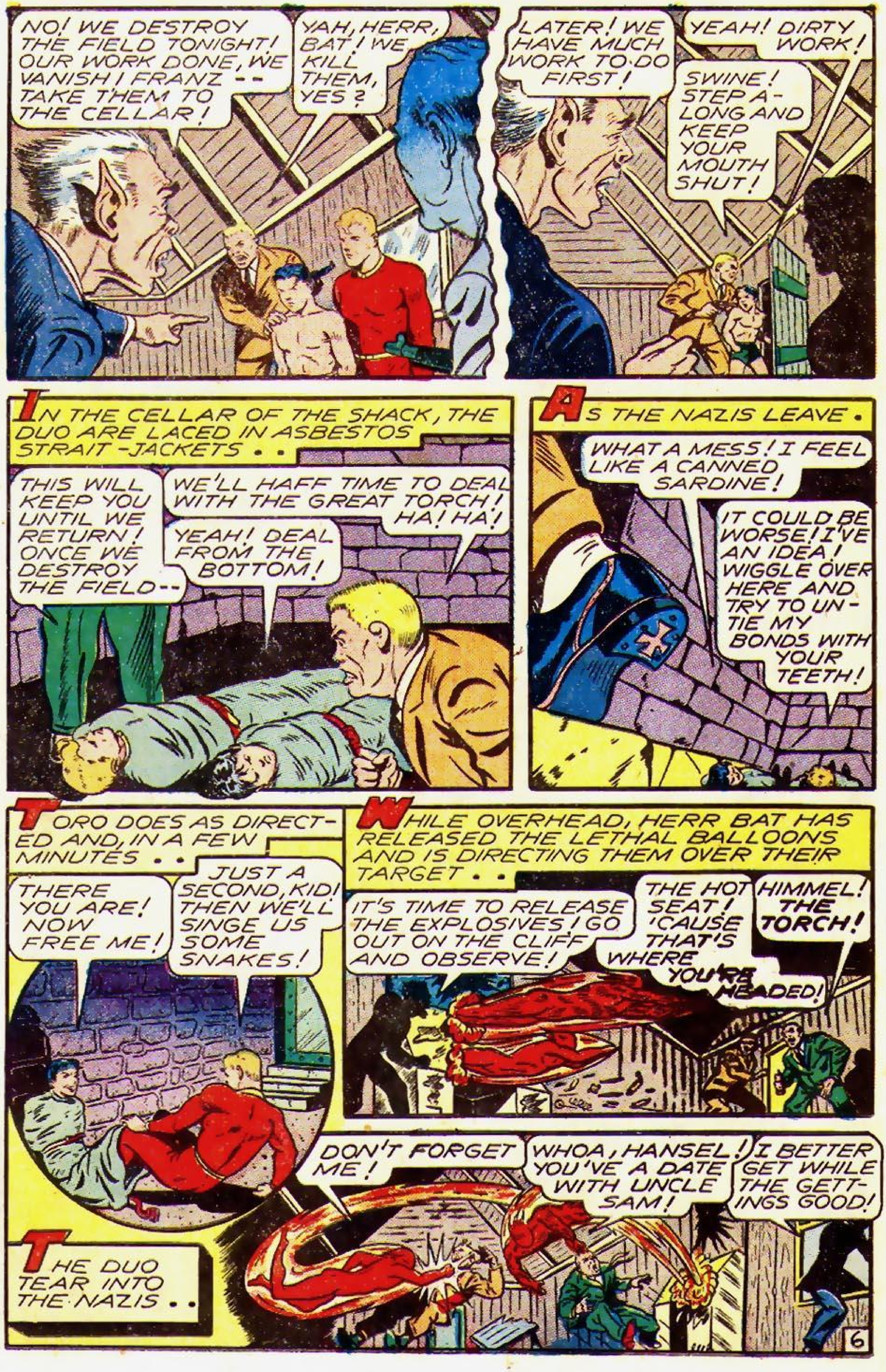

HUMAN TORCH
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
MYSTERY of the WINGLESS BAT!

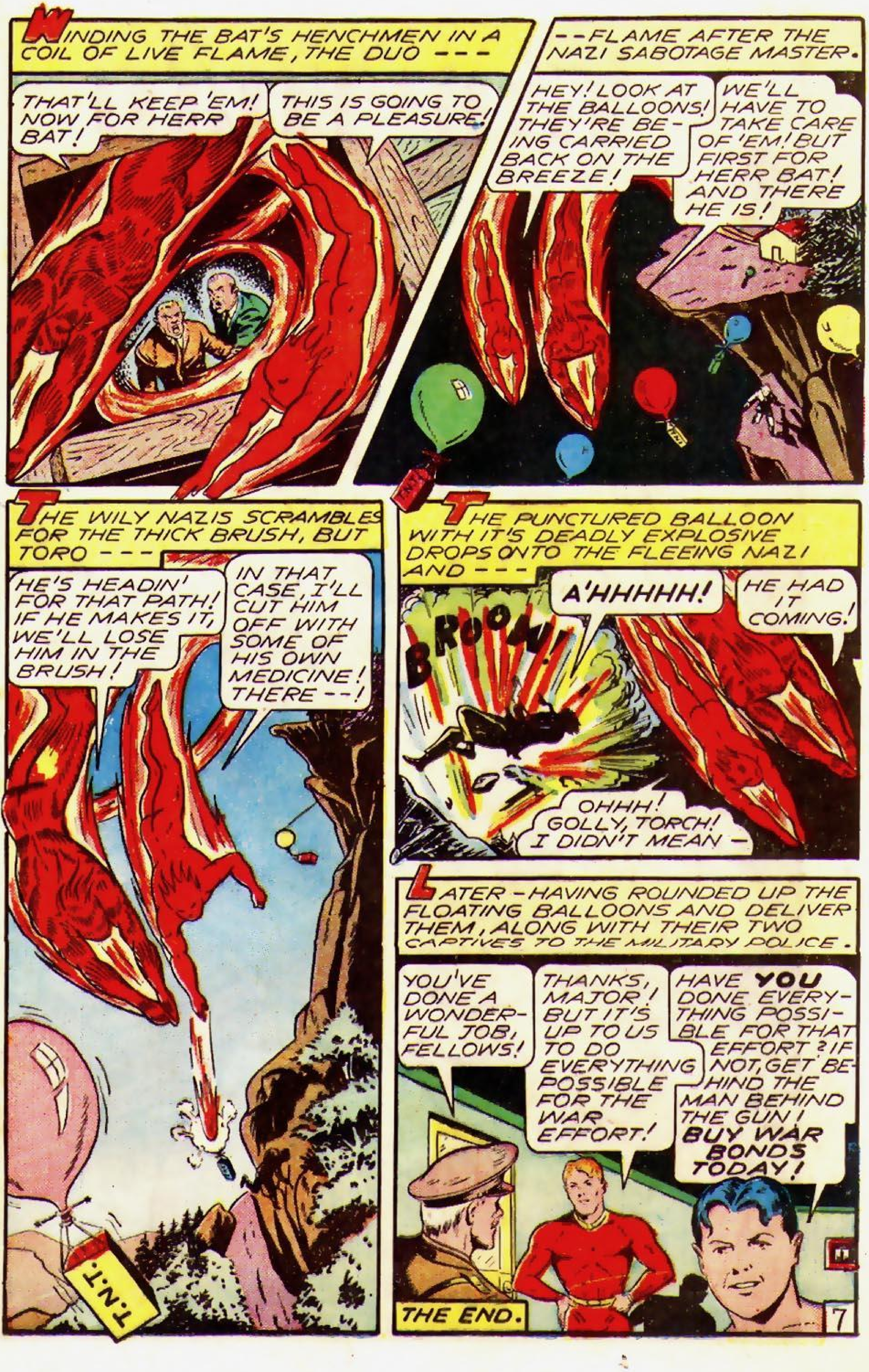

ON A MOUNTAIN PEAK OVERLOOKING TABLE-TOP MESA AND THE U.S. ARMY GLIDER SCHOOL, THREE NAZI AGENTS ---
WHEN DO WE DESTROY THE FIELD, HERR BAT?
TONIGHT! IF OUR PLAN WORKS, WE'LL USE THE SAME METHOD ON OTHER AIRFIELDS AND WAR INDUSTRIES!
THAT NIGHT, HEAVY EXPLOSIONS ROCK THE FIELD . .
--SPREADING DESTRUCTION AND -- DEATH . .
WHILE AT FIELD HEADQUARTERS, MAJOR BRANT, COMMANDING OFFICER ---
ALL INTERCEPTOR POSTS, HELLO! MAJOR BRANT SPEAKING! GET ALL SPOTS, FIGHTER CRAFT ALOFT! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY ENEMY PLANES!
POWERFUL SPOTS WEAVE A SHIFTING PATTERN OF BRILLIANT LIGHT AGAINST THE DARK SKY! FIGHTER CRAFT ROAR OFF THE RUNWAYS . .
FIGHTER CRAFT TO MAJOR BRANT! NO SIGN OF ENEMY PLANE, SIR!
AND -- BELOW .
WHAT? BUT THAT'S -- ALL-RIGHT, FIGHTER COMMAND! COME IN! WE'LL HAVE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

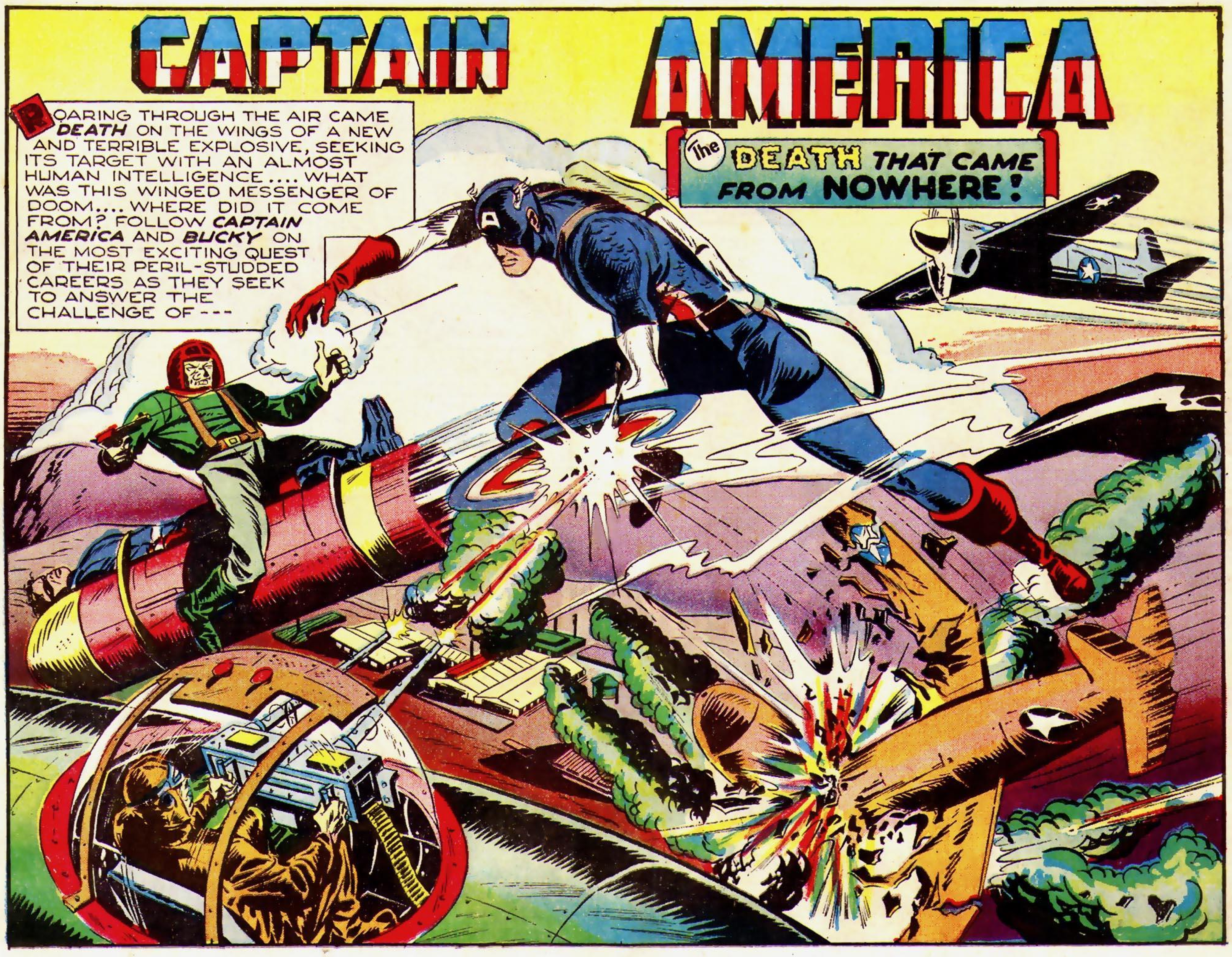

EARLY THAT NEXT MORNING, SCREAMING HEADLINES HIT THE STREET . .
DAILY PRESS
ARMY GLIDER SCHOOL BOMBED BY INVISIBLE ENEMY FLEET
5¢
WOR NEWS
TWENTY GLIDER PILOTS DIE IN BOMBING OF TABLE-TOP MESA!
EXTRA
ARMY INTELLIGENCE BAFFLED BY MYSTERIOUS BOMBING!
WHILE NOT FAR FROM THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES STOP AT A NEWSSTAND . .
SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THIS, TORO! WHAT D'YOU THINK?
THAT -- IF YOU THINK THAT WAY, WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
INSTANTLY THE DUO, FLAME . .
WE WILL! TABLE-TOP MESA FIRST STOP, TORO!
LEAD THE WAY!
AT DUSK THAT SAME DAY, THE DUO DESCEND ON THE GLIDER FIELD ON TABLE-TOP MESA . .
WHEW! LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PEARL HARBOR!
YEAH! WE'LL MAKE THE SNAKES RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS, PAY! THERE'S HEADQUARTERS!
WHILE AT THAT VERY MOMENT, HERR BAT AND HIS NAZI HELPERS GLOAT OVER THEIR SUCCESS . .
THE YANKEE SWINE BLAME THE BOMBING ON GHOSTS! INVISIBLE ENEMY FLEET! HA! HA!
IF THEY ONLY KNEW! EH, HERR BAT?
YES! WE'LL SOON GIVE THEM MORE PUZZLES! YOU BOTH KNOW WHAT TO DO! WE STRIKE AGAIN IN TEN MINUTES!
AT MAJOR BRANTS HEADQUARTERS ON THE MESA . .
THAT IS MYSTERIOUS! NO SIGHT OR SOUND OF ENEMY PLANES, YET THE DESTRUCTION! I DON'T GET IT!
WE DON'T EITHER! PERHAPS YOU CAN AID US!
SUDDENLY FROM THE FIELD OUTSIDE, COMES -
WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN, MAJOR! IT'S ? WHA?
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!

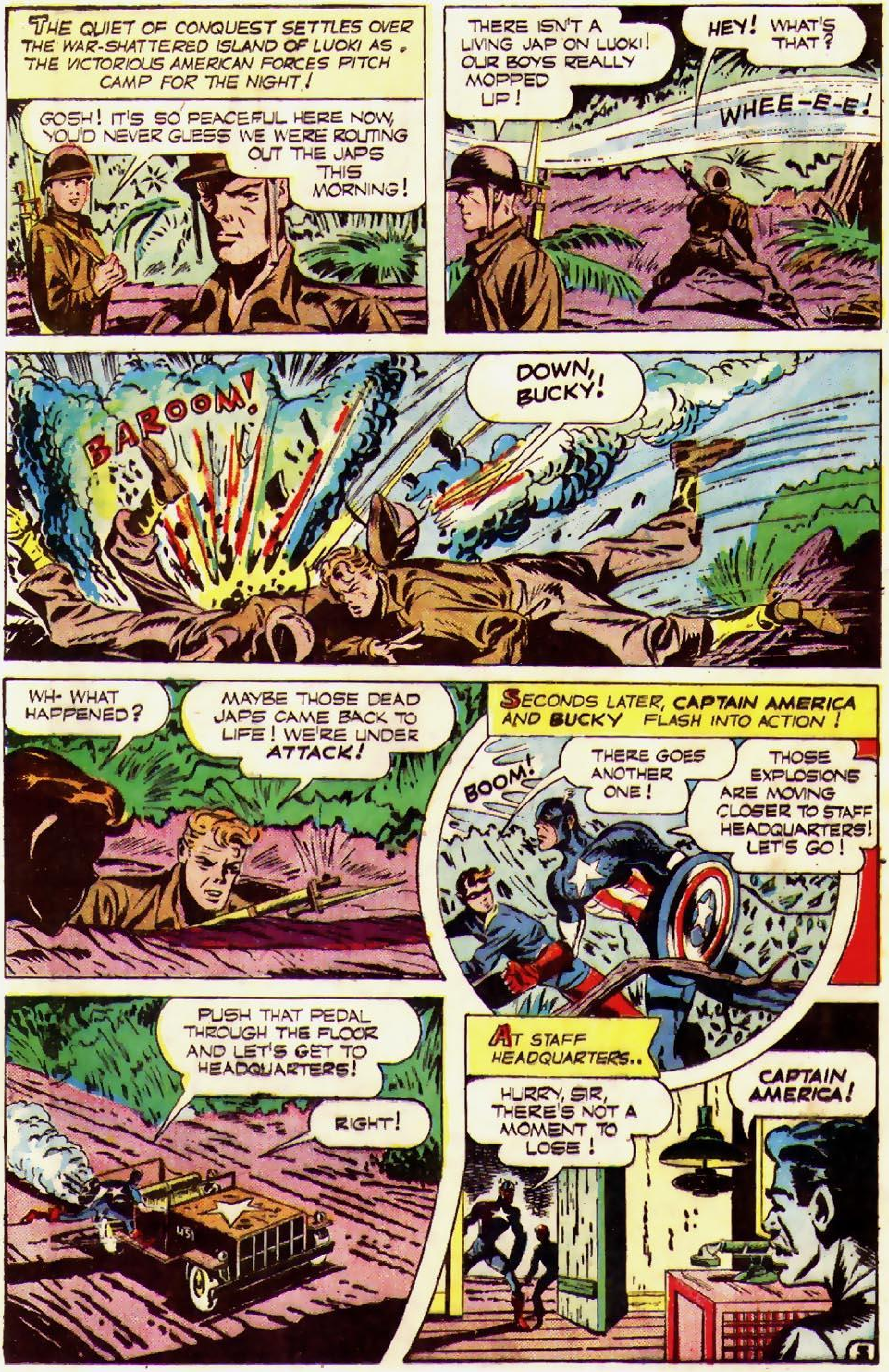

HEAVY EARTH-SHAKING EXPLOSIONS . .
I--? OOOPH! THAT WAS CLOSE!
FLAME ON! WE'RE GOING UP!
BOOM
LIKE TWO FIERY METEORS, THE DUO FLAME INTO THE NIGHT SKY . .
I DON'T SEE A THING!
LET'S HIT THE STRATO-SPERE, TORO! THEY MAY BE USING HIGH ALTITUDE PLANES!
WHILE AT THE NAZIS MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT . . .
OUR FUEHER VILL BE-- LOOK, FRANZ! FALLING STARS!
VAS? DUNDER-HEAD! IT'S THE TORCH! WE MUST INFORM HERR BAT!
AND ---
THE TORCH, HERR BAT! ABOVE THE FIELD! HE'LL DIS-COVER ----
OUR CLEVER LITTLE PLAN? YES! HMMM, PERHAPS WE CAN USE IT TO TRAP HIM! HE'LL FIND ME PREPARED!
WHILE THE NAZIS PREPARE THEIR TRAP, TORCH AND TORO ---
THE AIR'S TOO THIN, TORCH! I CAN'T FLAME HIGHER!
WE WON'T TRY, KID! THERE'S NOTH-ING HERE ANYWAY! LET'S GET BACK TO THE FIELD!
IT'S GOT ME GOING, TORCH! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE THE BOMBS COME FROM!
I DON'T--? HEY! LOOK AT THAT BIG TOY BA-LLOON! MAYBE THAT'S THE ANSWER!
T.N.T.

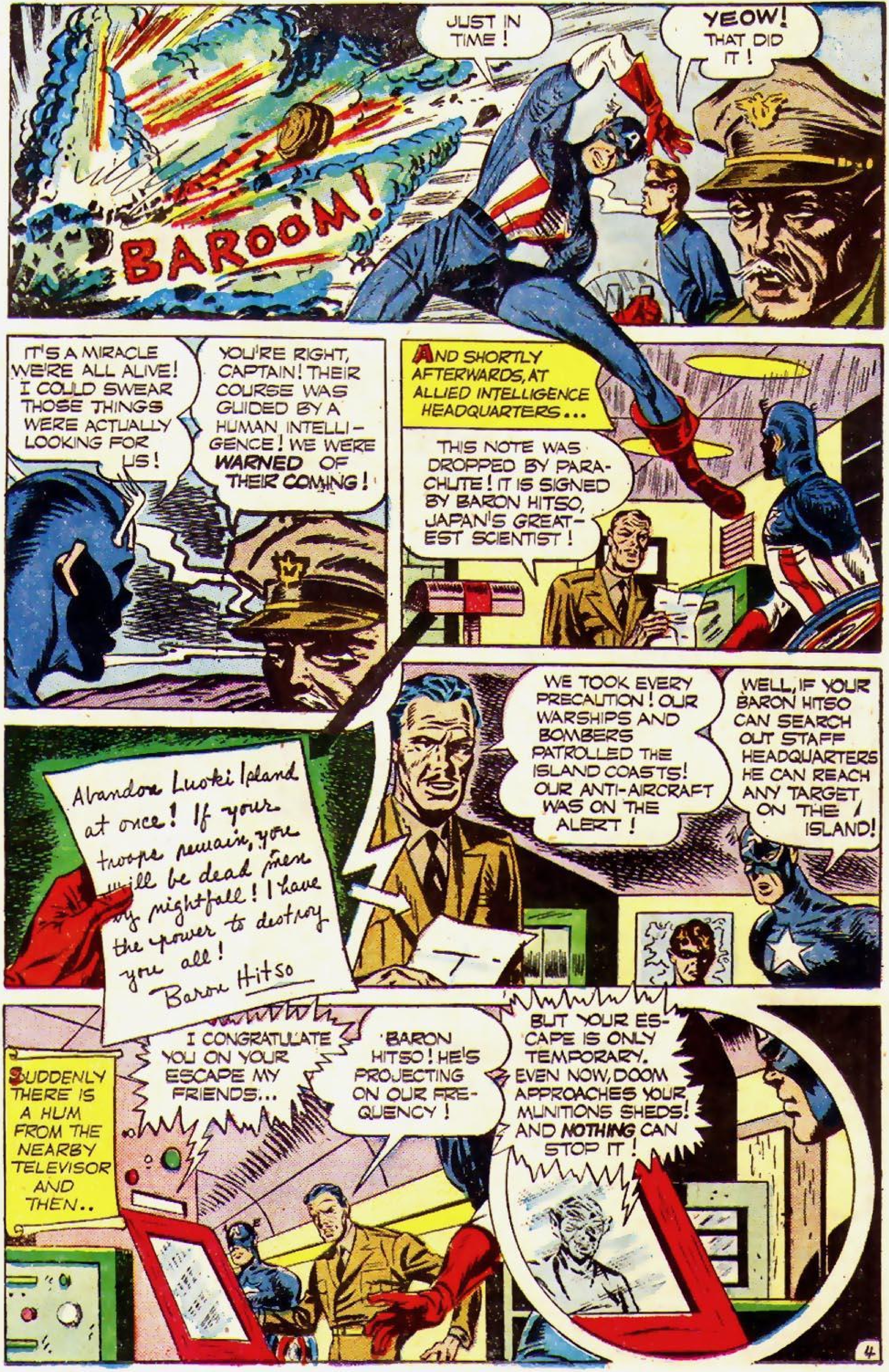

FLAMING OVER TO THE FLOATING BALLOON, THE DUO SEE ----
THAT'S A BLOCK OF T.N.T. WHOEVER THOUGHT THIS UP IS GOIN' TO REGRET IT!
YEAH! LOOK, TORO--IT'S FLOATING TOWARD THAT MOUNTAIN!
T.N.T.
LET'S FOLLOW IT! IT SEEMS TO BE CONTROLLED BY SOMETHING!
RADIO CONTROLLED!
THE BALLOON LEADS THEM TO A SMALL SHACK ON THE MOUNTAIN . . .
IT'S GOING RIGHT THRU THAT WINDOW!
SO ARE WE! C'MON TORO!
FLAMING THRU THE WINDOW AFTER THE BALLOON, THE DUO ARE MET BY ---
WELL, WELL! LOOK WHAT'S— TORCH, MY FLAMES!
IT'S A TRAP! WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR FISTS!
BUT THE NAZIS ARE WELL PREPARED FOR THAT . . .
I WOULDN'T ADVISE THAT! THIS GUN HAS A HABIT OF GOING OFF!
WHAT? WHY YOU LITTLE SCHRIMP! I'LL ---!
CUT IT, TORO, THEY'VE GOT THE DROP ON US! TELL ME, HOW DID YOU MAKE THE BALLOON LEAD US HERE?
REMOTE CONTROL! WE ALSO USED IT TO BOMB THE FIELD! D'YOU SEE THIS SMALL VALVE ON THE STEM?
YEAH! WHAT ABOUT IT?
VERY CLEVER!
THE COLORED LIGHTS ON THE MAP SHOW THE BALLOON OVER THE TARGET! THE VALVE IS THEN OPENED BY ELECTRICAL IMPULSE, DEFLATING THE BALLOON AND DROPPING THE EXPLOSIVE!

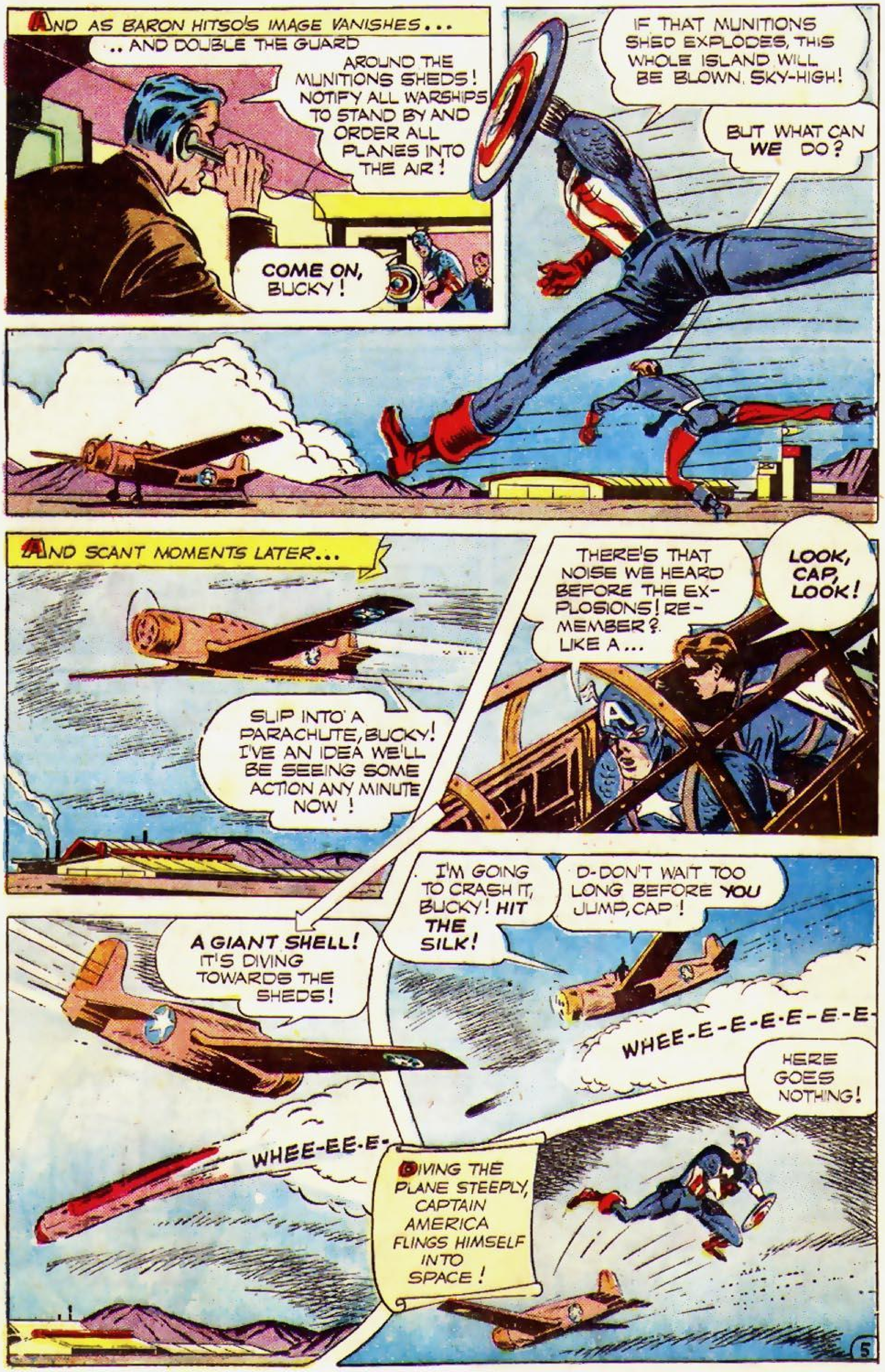

NO! WE DESTROY THE FIELD TONIGHT! OUR WORK DONE, WE VANISH! FRANZ -- TAKE THEM TO THE CELLAR!
YAH, HERR, BAT! WE KILL THEM, YES?
LATER! WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO FIRST!
YEAH! DIRTY WORK!
SWINE! STEP ALONG AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
IN THE CELLAR OF THE SHACK, THE DUO ARE LACED IN ASBESTOS STRAIT-JACKETS . .
THIS WILL KEEP YOU UNTIL WE RETURN! ONCE WE DESTROY THE FIELD--
WE'LL HAFF TIME TO DEAL WITH THE GREAT TORCH! HA! HA!
YEAH! DEAL FROM THE BOTTOM!
AS THE NAZIS LEAVE .
WHAT A MESS! I FEEL LIKE A CANNED SARDINE!
IT COULD BE WORSE! I'VE AN IDEA! WIGGLE OVER HERE AND TRY TO UNTIE MY BONDS WITH YOUR TEETH!
TORO DOES AS DIRECTED AND, IN A FEW MINUTES . .
THERE YOU ARE! NOW FREE ME!
JUST A SECOND, KID! THEN WE'LL SINGE US SOME SNAKES!
WHILE OVERHEAD, HERR BAT HAS RELEASED THE LETHAL BALLOONS AND IS DIRECTING THEM OVER THEIR TARGET . .
IT'S TIME TO RELEASE THE EXPLOSIVES! GO OUT ON THE CLIFF AND OBSERVE!
THE HOT SEAT! 'CAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE HEADED!
HIMMEL! THE TORCH!
THE DUO TEAR INTO THE NAZIS . .
DON'T FORGET ME!
WHOA, HANSEL! YOU'VE A DATE WITH UNCLE SAM!
I BETTER GET WHILE THE GETTINGS GOOD!

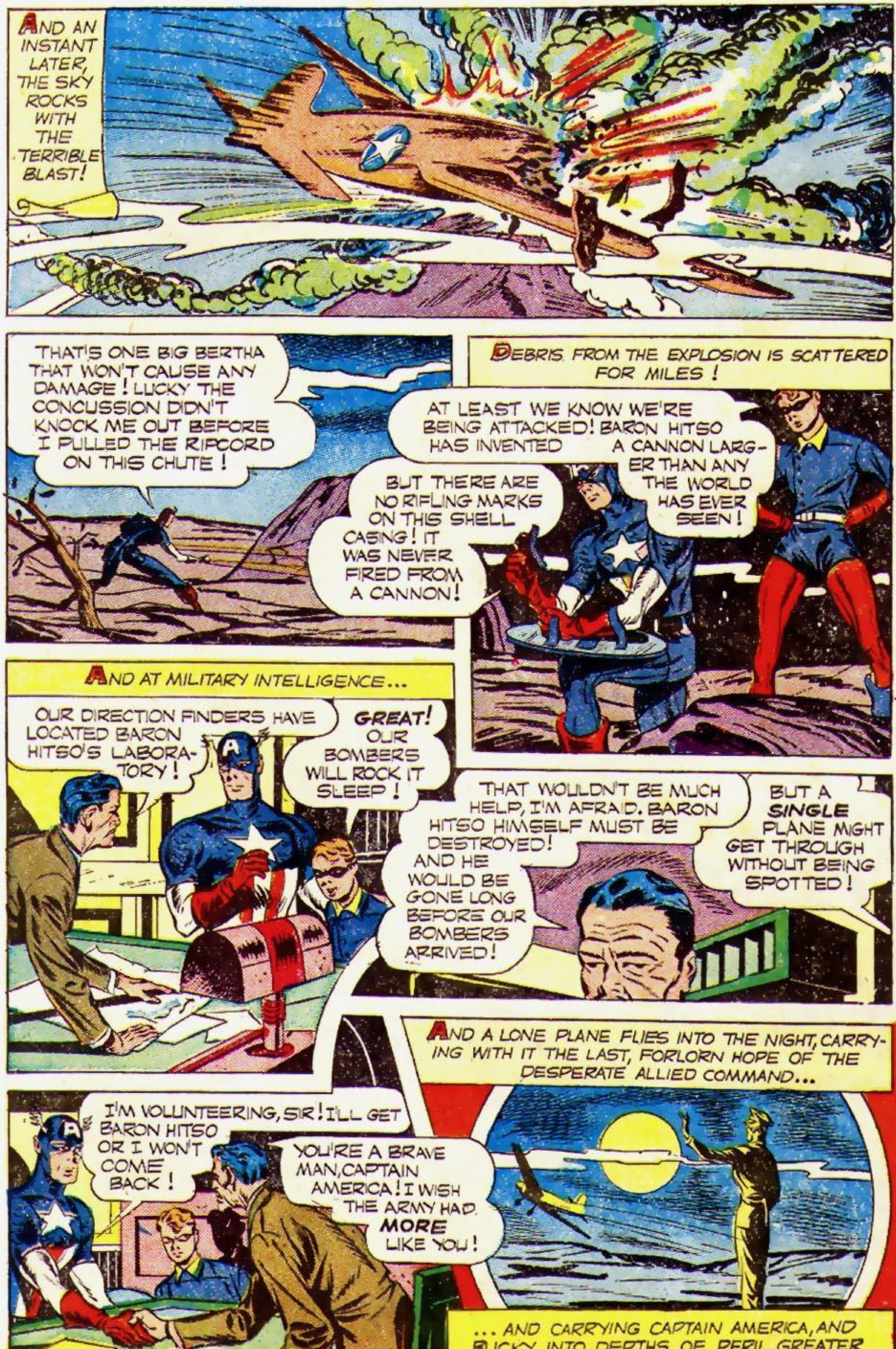

WINDING THE BAT'S HENCHMEN IN A COIL OF LIVE FLAME, THE DUO ---
THAT'LL KEEP 'EM! NOW FOR HERR BAT!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A PLEASURE!
--FLAME AFTER THE NAZI SABOTAGE MASTER.
HEY! LOOK AT THE BALLOONS! THEY'RE BEING CARRIED BACK ON THE BREEZE!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF 'EM! BUT FIRST FOR HERR BAT! AND THERE HE IS!
T.N.T.
THE WILY NAZIS SCRAMBLES FOR THE THICK BRUSH, BUT TORO ---
HE'S HEADIN' FOR THAT PATH! IF HE MAKES IT, WE'LL LOSE HIM IN THE BRUSH!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL CUT HIM OFF WITH SOME OF HIS OWN MEDICINE! THERE --!
T.N.T.
THE PUNCTURED BALLOON WITH IT'S DEADLY EXPLOSIVE DROPS ONTO THE FLEEING NAZI AND ---
A'HHHHH!
BROOM!
HE HAD IT COMING!
OHHH! GOLLY, TORCH! I DIDN'T MEAN -
LATER - HAVING ROUNDED UP THE FLOATING BALLOONS AND DELIVER THEM, ALONG WITH THEIR TWO CAPTIVES TO THE MILITARY POLICE.
YOU'VE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB, FELLOWS!
THANKS, MAJOR! BUT IT'S UP TO US TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR THE WAR EFFORT!
HAVE YOU DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR THAT EFFORT? IF NOT, GET BEHIND THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN! BUY WAR BONDS TODAY!
THE END.

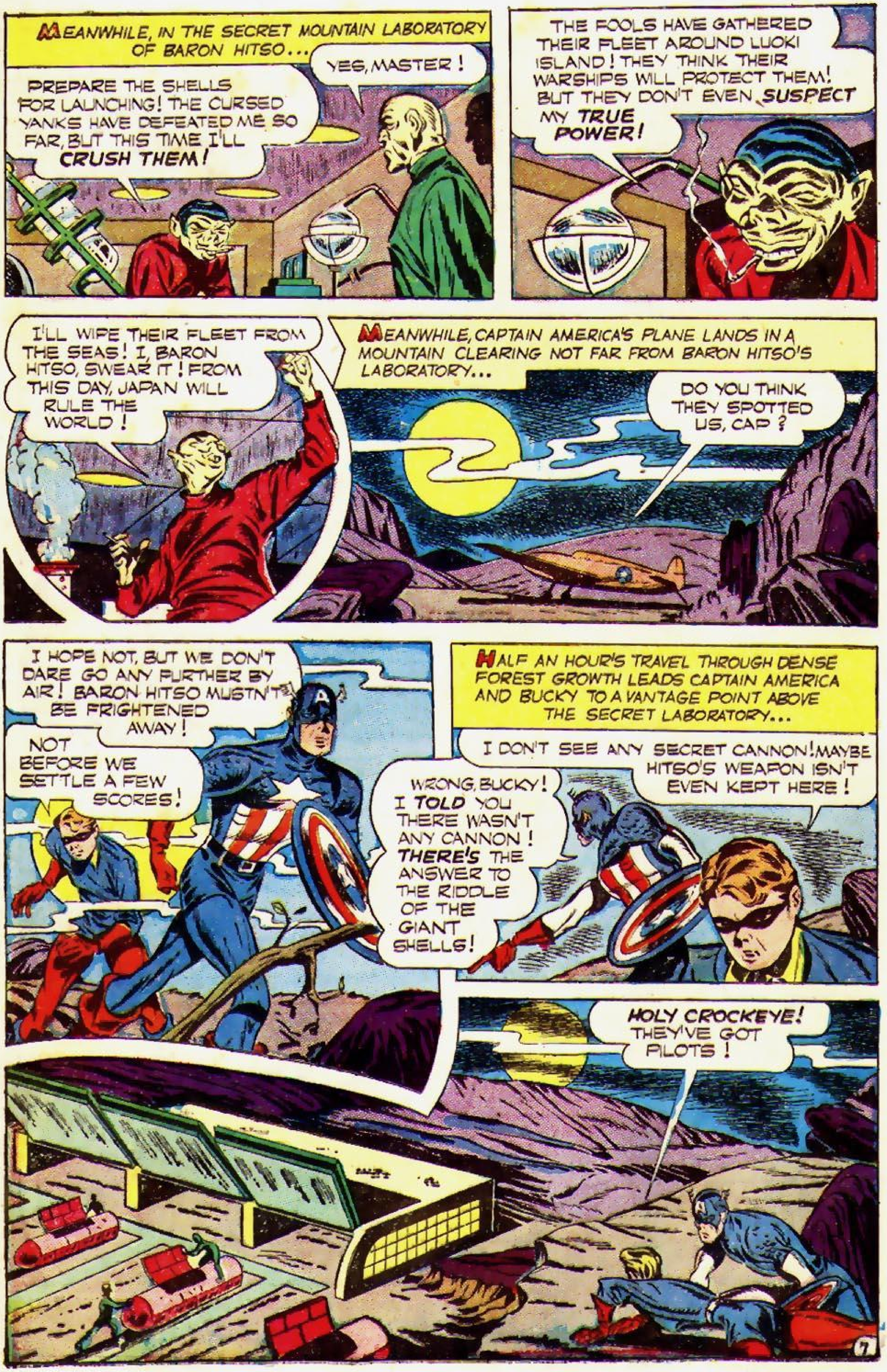

CAPTAIN AMERICA
The DEATH THAT CAME FROM NOWHERE!
ROARING THROUGH THE AIR CAME DEATH ON THE WINGS OF A NEW AND TERRIBLE EXPLOSIVE, SEEKING ITS TARGET WITH AN ALMOST HUMAN INTELLIGENCE.... WHAT WAS THIS WINGED MESSENGER OF DOOM.... WHERE DID IT COME FROM? FOLLOW CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ON THE MOST EXCITING QUEST OF THEIR PERIL-STUDDED CAREERS AS THEY SEEK TO ANSWER THE CHALLENGE OF---

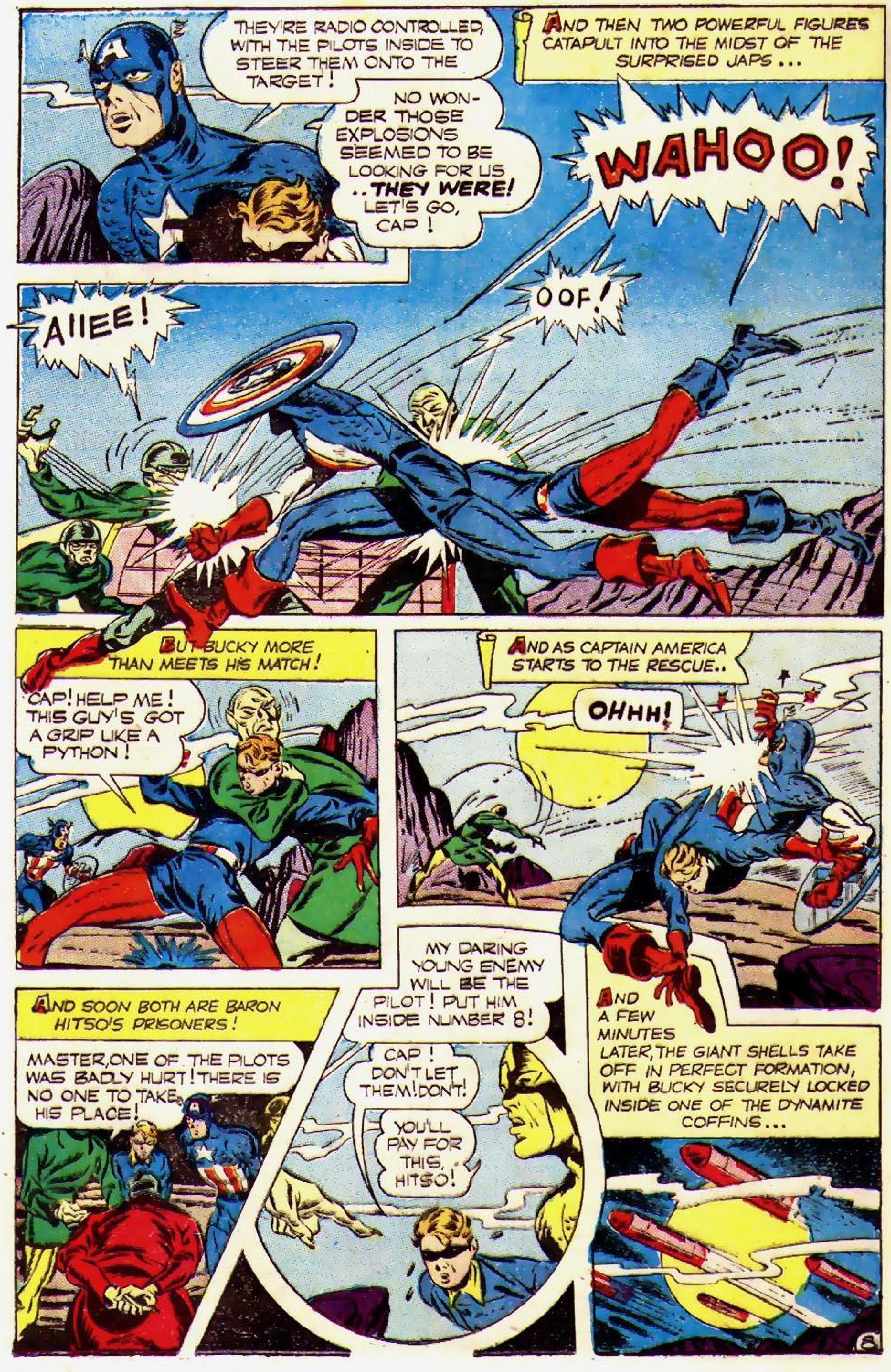

THE QUIET OF CONQUEST SETTLES OVER THE WAR-SHATTERED ISLAND OF LUOKI AS THE VICTORIOUS AMERICAN FORCES PITCH CAMP FOR THE NIGHT!
GOSH! IT'S SO PEACEFUL HERE NOW, YOU'D NEVER GUESS WE WERE ROUTING OUT THE JAPS THIS MORNING!
THERE ISN'T A LIVING JAP ON LUOKI! OUR BOYS REALLY MOPPED UP!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
WHEE-E-E!
BAROOM!
DOWN, BUCKY!
WH- WHAT HAPPENED?
MAYBE THOSE DEAD JAPS CAME BACK TO LIFE! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
SECONDS LATER, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY FLASH INTO ACTION!
BOOM!
THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!
THOSE EXPLOSIONS ARE MOVING CLOSER TO STAFF HEADQUARTERS! LET'S GO!
PUSH THAT PEDAL THROUGH THE FLOOR AND LET'S GET TO HEADQUARTERS!
RIGHT!
451
AT STAFF HEADQUARTERS..
HURRY, SIR, THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

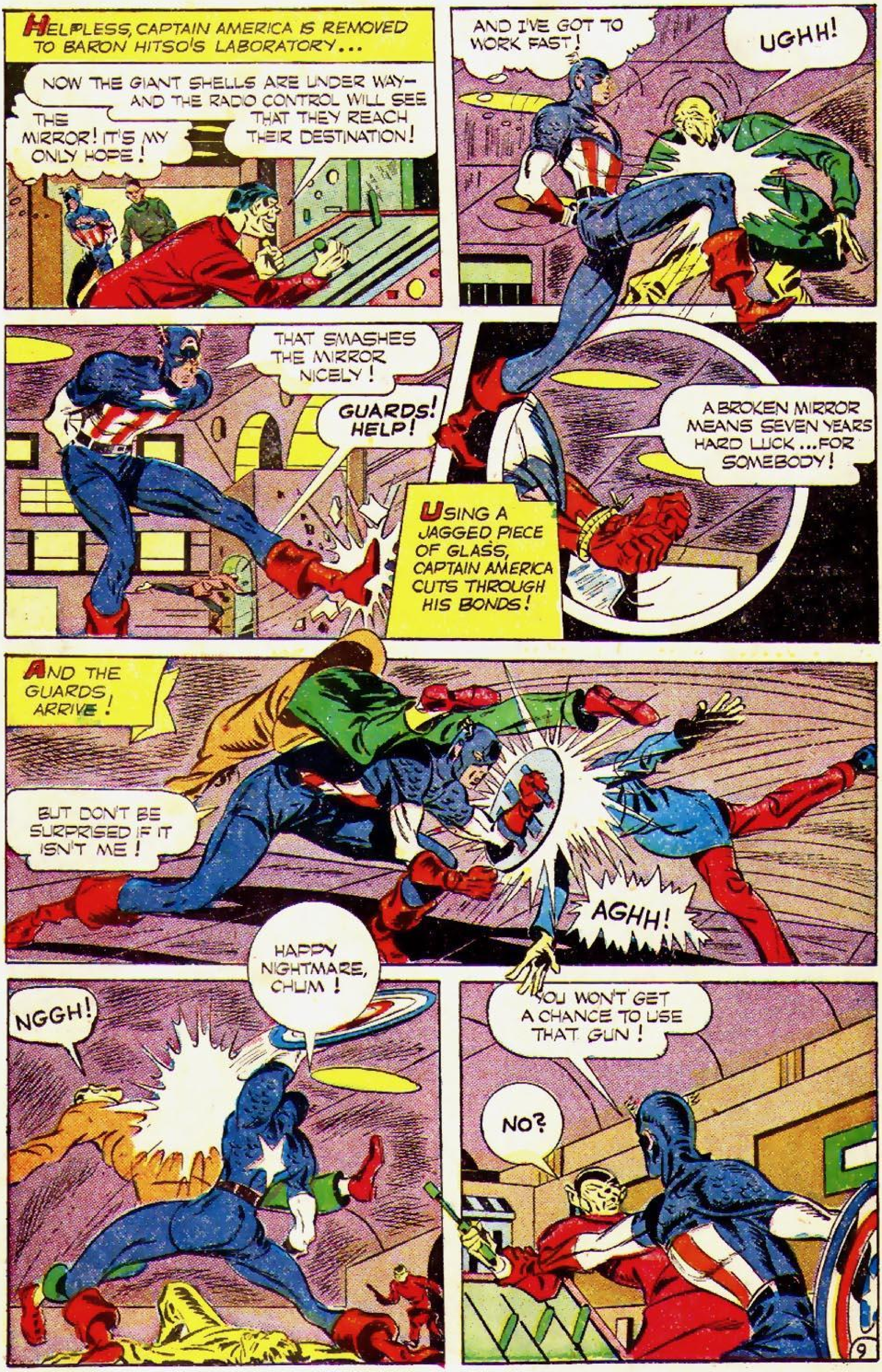

BAROOM!
JUST IN TIME!
YEOW! THAT DID IT!
IT'S A MIRACLE WE'RE ALL ALIVE! I COULD SWEAR THOSE THINGS WERE ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR US!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAPTAIN! THEIR COURSE WAS GUIDED BY A HUMAN INTELLIGENCE! WE WERE **WARNED** OF THEIR COMING!
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AT ALLIED INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS...
THIS NOTE WAS DROPPED BY PARACHUTE! IT IS SIGNED BY BARON HITSO, JAPAN'S GREATEST SCIENTIST!
Abandon Luoki Island at once! If your troops remain, you will be dead men by nightfall! I have the power to destroy you all!
Baron Hitso
WE TOOK EVERY PRECAUTION! OUR WARSHIPS AND BOMBERS PATROLLED THE ISLAND COASTS! OUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT WAS ON THE ALERT!
WELL, IF YOUR BARON HITSO CAN SEARCH OUT STAFF HEADQUARTERS HE CAN REACH ANY TARGET ON THE ISLAND!
SUDDENLY THERE IS A HUM FROM THE NEARBY TELEVISOR AND THEN..
I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ESCAPE MY FRIENDS...
BARON HITSO! HE'S PROJECTING ON OUR FREQUENCY!
BUT YOUR ESCAPE IS ONLY TEMPORARY. EVEN NOW, DOOM APPROACHES YOUR MUNITIONS SHEDS! AND **NOTHING** CAN STOP IT!

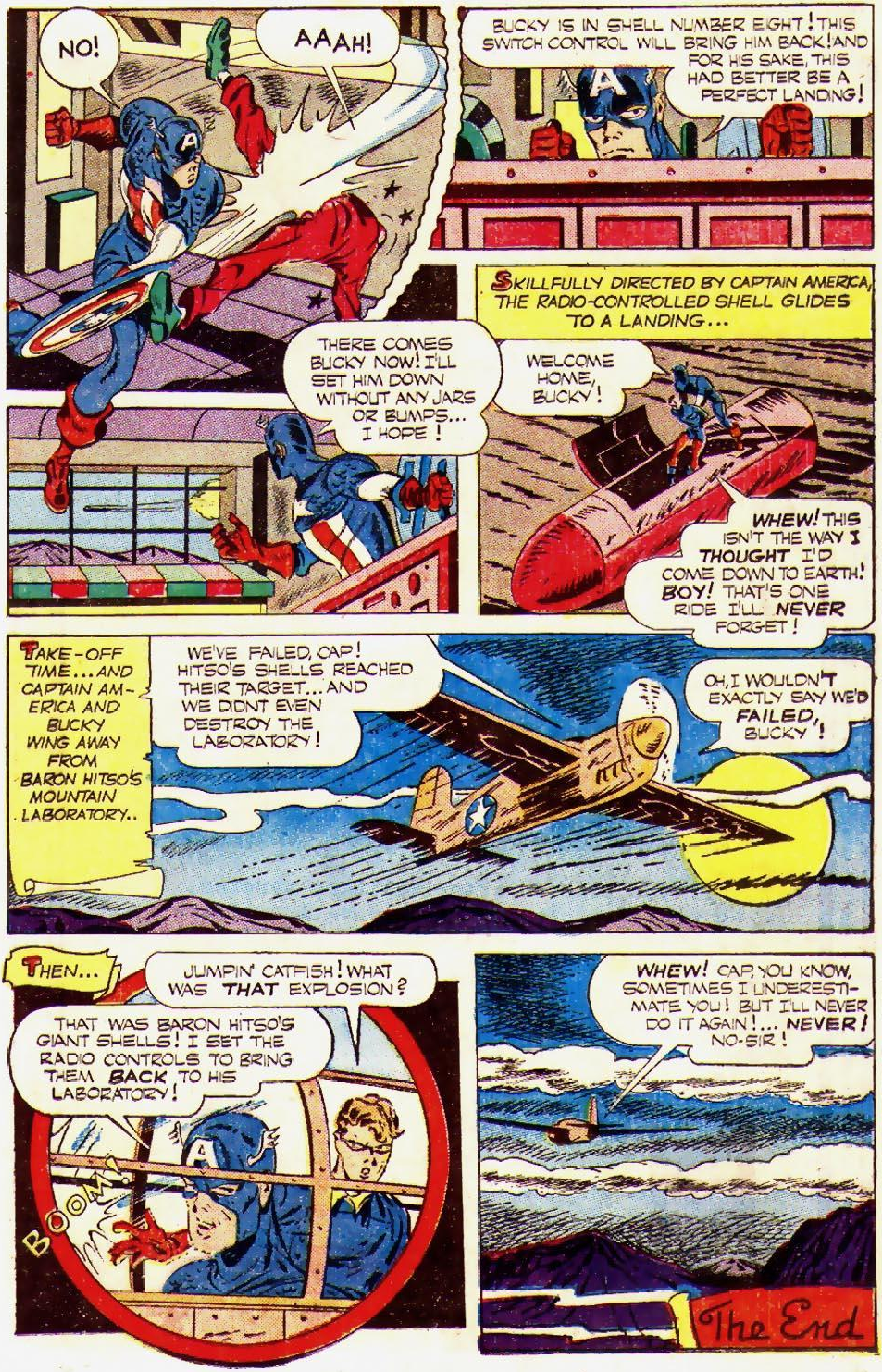

AND AS BARON HITSO'S IMAGE VANISHES...
.. AND DOUBLE THE GUARD AROUND THE MUNITIONS SHEDS! NOTIFY ALL WARSHIPS TO STAND BY AND ORDER ALL PLANES INTO THE AIR!
COME ON, BUCKY!
IF THAT MUNITIONS SHED EXPLODES, THIS WHOLE ISLAND WILL BE BLOWN SKY-HIGH!
BUT WHAT CAN **WE** DO?
AND SCANT MOMENTS LATER...
SLIP INTO A PARACHUTE, BUCKY! I'VE AN IDEA WE'LL BE SEEING SOME ACTION ANY MINUTE NOW!
LOOK, CAP, LOOK!
THERE'S THAT NOISE WE HEARD BEFORE THE EXPLOSIONS! REMEMBER? LIKE A...
A GIANT SHELL! IT'S DIVING TOWARDS THE SHEDS!
I'M GOING TO CRASH IT, BUCKY! **HIT THE SILK!**
D-DON'T WAIT TOO LONG BEFORE **YOU** JUMP, CAP!
WHEE-E-E-E-E-E-E-
HERE GOES NOTHING!
WHEE-EE-E-
DIVING THE PLANE STEEPLY, CAPTAIN AMERICA FLINGS HIMSELF INTO SPACE!

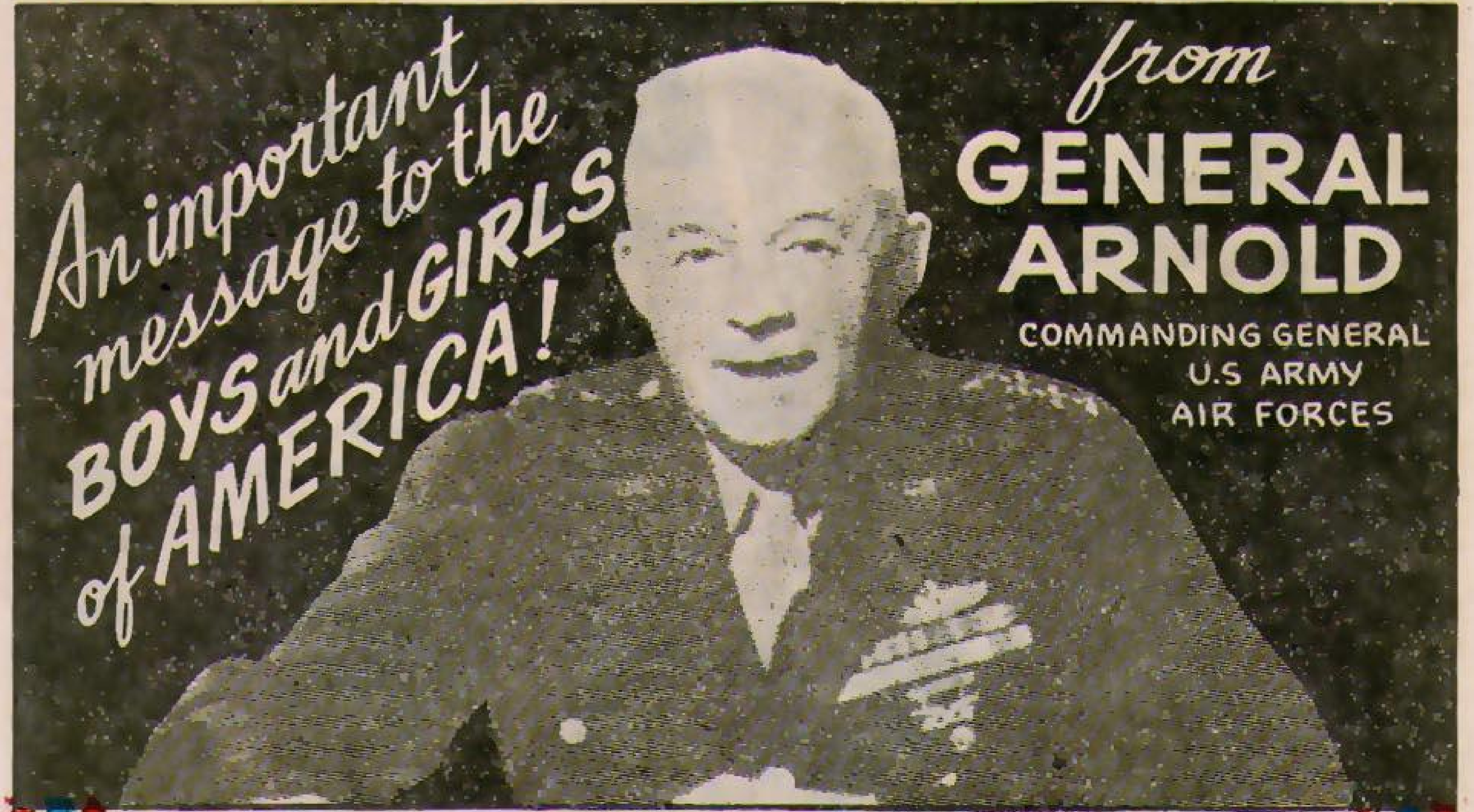

AND AN INSTANT LATER, THE SKY ROCKS WITH THE TERRIBLE BLAST!
THAT'S ONE BIG BERTHA THAT WON'T CAUSE ANY DAMAGE! LUCKY THE CONCUSSION DIDN'T KNOCK ME OUT BEFORE I PULLED THE RIPCORD ON THIS CHUTE!
DEBRIS FROM THE EXPLOSION IS SCATTERED FOR MILES!
AT LEAST WE KNOW WE'RE BEING ATTACKED! BARON HITSO HAS INVENTED A CANNON LARGER THAN ANY THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!
BUT THERE ARE NO RIFLING MARKS ON THIS SHELL CASING! IT WAS NEVER FIRED FROM A CANNON!
AND AT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE...
OUR DIRECTION FINDERS HAVE LOCATED BARON HITSO'S LABORATORY!
GREAT! OUR BOMBERS WILL ROCK IT SLEEP!
THAT WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP, I'M AFRAID. BARON HITSO HIMSELF MUST BE DESTROYED! AND HE WOULD BE GONE LONG BEFORE OUR BOMBERS ARRIVED!
BUT A SINGLE PLANE MIGHT GET THROUGH WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED!
I'M VOLUNTEERING, SIR! I'LL GET BARON HITSO OR I WON'T COME BACK!
YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA! I WISH THE ARMY HAD MORE LIKE YOU!
AND A LONE PLANE FLIES INTO THE NIGHT, CARRYING WITH IT THE LAST, FORLORN HOPE OF THE DESPERATE ALLIED COMMAND...
... AND CARRYING CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND BUCKY INTO DEPTHS OF PERIL GREATER THAN THEY'VE EVER KNOWN!


MEANWHILE, IN THE SECRET MOUNTAIN LABORATORY OF BARON HITSO...
PREPARE THE SHELLS FOR LAUNCHING! THE CURSED YANKS HAVE DEFEATED ME SO FAR, BUT THIS TIME I'LL CRUSH THEM!
YES, MASTER!
THE FOOLS HAVE GATHERED THEIR FLEET AROUND LUOKI ISLAND! THEY THINK THEIR WARSHIPS WILL PROTECT THEM! BUT THEY DON'T EVEN SUSPECT MY TRUE POWER!
I'LL WIPE THEIR FLEET FROM THE SEAS! I, BARON HITSO, SWEAR IT! FROM THIS DAY, JAPAN WILL RULE THE WORLD!
MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN AMERICA'S PLANE LANDS IN A MOUNTAIN CLEARING NOT FAR FROM BARON HITSO'S LABORATORY...
DO YOU THINK THEY SPOTTED US, CAP?
I HOPE NOT, BUT WE DON'T DARE GO ANY FURTHER BY AIR! BARON HITSO MUSTN'T BE FRIGHTENED AWAY!
NOT BEFORE WE SETTLE A FEW SCORES!
HALF AN HOUR'S TRAVEL THROUGH DENSE FOREST GROWTH LEADS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY TO A VANTAGE POINT ABOVE THE SECRET LABORATORY...
I DON'T SEE ANY SECRET CANNON! MAYBE HITSO'S WEAPON ISN'T EVEN KEPT HERE!
WRONG, BUCKY! I TOLD YOU THERE WASN'T ANY CANNON! THERE'S THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF THE GIANT SHELLS!
HOLY CROCKEYE! THEY'VE GOT PILOTS!


THEY'RE RADIO CONTROLLED, WITH THE PILOTS INSIDE TO STEER THEM ONTO THE TARGET!
NO WONDER THOSE EXPLOSIONS SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR US ..THEY WERE! LET'S GO, CAP!
AND THEN TWO POWERFUL FIGURES CATAPULT INTO THE MIDST OF THE SURPRISED JAPS...
WAHOO!
AIIEE!
OOF!
BUT BUCKY MORE THAN MEETS HIS MATCH!
CAP! HELP ME! THIS GUY'S GOT A GRIP LIKE A PYTHON!
AND AS CAPTAIN AMERICA STARTS TO THE RESCUE..
OHHH!
AND SOON BOTH ARE BARON HITSO'S PRISONERS!
MASTER, ONE OF THE PILOTS WAS BADLY HURT! THERE IS NO ONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE!
MY DARING YOUNG ENEMY WILL BE THE PILOT! PUT HIM INSIDE NUMBER 8!
CAP! DON'T LET THEM! DON'T!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, HITSO!
AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE GIANT SHELLS TAKE OFF IN PERFECT FORMATION, WITH BUCKY SECURELY LOCKED INSIDE ONE OF THE DYNAMITE COFFINS...


HELPLESS, CAPTAIN AMERICA IS REMOVED TO BARON HITSO'S LABORATORY...
NOW THE GIANT SHELLS ARE UNDER WAY— AND THE RADIO CONTROL WILL SEE THAT THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION!
THE MIRROR! IT'S MY ONLY HOPE!
AND I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!
UGHH!
THAT SMASHES THE MIRROR NICELY!
GUARDS! HELP!
A BROKEN MIRROR MEANS SEVEN YEARS HARD LUCK ...FOR SOMEBODY!
USING A JAGGED PIECE OF GLASS, CAPTAIN AMERICA CUTS THROUGH HIS BONDS!
AND THE GUARDS ARRIVE!
BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED IF IT ISN'T ME!
AGHH!
HAPPY NIGHTMARE, CHUM!
NGGH!
YOU WON'T GET A CHANCE TO USE THAT GUN!
NO?


NO!
AAAH!
BUCKY IS IN SHELL NUMBER EIGHT! THIS SWITCH CONTROL WILL BRING HIM BACK! AND FOR HIS SAKE, THIS HAD BETTER BE A PERFECT LANDING!
THERE COMES BUCKY NOW! I'LL SET HIM DOWN WITHOUT ANY JARS OR BUMPS... I HOPE!
SKILLFULLY DIRECTED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE RADIO-CONTROLLED SHELL GLIDES TO A LANDING...
WELCOME HOME, BUCKY!
WHEW! THIS ISN'T THE WAY I THOUGHT I'D COME DOWN TO EARTH! BOY! THAT'S ONE RIDE I'LL NEVER FORGET!
TAKE-OFF TIME... AND CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY WING AWAY FROM BARON HITSO'S MOUNTAIN LABORATORY..
WE'VE FAILED, CAP! HITSO'S SHELLS REACHED THEIR TARGET... AND WE DIDNT EVEN DESTROY THE LABORATORY!
OH, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY SAY WE'D FAILED, BUCKY!
THEN...
JUMPIN' CATFISH! WHAT WAS THAT EXPLOSION?
THAT WAS BARON HITSO'S GIANT SHELLS! I SET THE RADIO CONTROLS TO BRING THEM BACK TO HIS LABORATORY!
BOOM!
WHEW! CAP, YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I UNDERESTIMATE YOU! BUT I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN!... NEVER! NO-SIR!
The End



An important message to the BOYS *and* GIRLS *of* AMERICA!

from GENERAL ARNOLD

COMMANDING GENERAL
U.S ARMY
AIR FORCES

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

We of the armed forces urge every young man and woman of pre-military age who has been filling a summer war job to return to school this autumn. Such work is important, but your education has top priority. You will serve your country best by making the most of your education opportunities, for this is not only a brave man's war--it is also a smart man's war.

If you plan to enter military service, you will find that a good education offers the best assurance of progress and recognition. In all branches of service, we need trained leaders, engineers, scientists and specialists. And in the years to follow victory we will need them even more, as our nation charts its progress in the post-war world.

H H Arnold
H. H. ARNOLD,
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES
WAR
BONDS
AND
STAMPS

(Prepared in cooperation with the Office of War Information and published in the interest of the NATIONAL GO-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE, sponsored by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, and the U. S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency.)

The BLACK FORTUNE

THE road leading back to the old warehouse in the hills was covered with weeds. The trees and underbrush practically hid it and as Mike and Chris came into the narrow opening before the old building, they halted uneasily.

"Can't see what sense there is to traipsing all the way up here just to look at this thing," Chris protested. "It's foolish—"

"Maybe," Mike admitted. "Now we've gotta find a way in. Probably everything's locked up tight. Let's go."

Everything was locked tight except a window at the rear which admitted them to the dim interior. Mike took the lead across the small room, stepped through the door beyond and stood peering into the gloom. Dust rose about them and Christ mopped perspiration off his forehead.

"It's empty," he growled. "It smells funny, too. What in heck is that?"

"I dunno," Mike answered softly. "You wait here while I have a look. Personally I don't think it's empty. Not by a long shot."

Chris turned back into the room, walked across to the window and peered out into the late afternoon sunlight. It was nice and warm out there. Birds were singing and it was a corking summer day. But in here

He turned at the sound and peered into the gloom. "Mike?" Chris said uneasily. "Did you—"

Chris stopped as his eyes again accustomed themselves to the dark. In the corner a man was standing, a man in ragged clothes whose face was tipped back almost as if he were lying down. His arms hung straight at his sides and now he moved slowly, mechanically down the floor toward where Chris stood frozen.

AS he approached Chris' startled eyes noted the face. It was a horrible face, a dead face, yellow and wrinkled like a mummy.

Involuntarily Chris yelled. And took off. It was subconscious action and didn't give him time to worry about the direction. His feet just went into action and he went along with them. Across the room and through the door into the gloom beyond, and through that until he collided with a wall somewhere and glanced off. He almost fell, caught his balance and backed up against the wall.

From somewhere nearby came a gnawing sound. Probably a rat. Tiny footsteps sounded scampering about in the dark, and Chris felt sweat pop out all over him. Mike had been right in one way. The warehouse wasn't empty. Not of ghosts anyhow—

Chris turned and collided with Mike who grunted. "Hold it," Mike cautioned softly. "I heard you yell—"

"You'd have had to be deaf not to," Chris chattered. "Back there in that first room a man. A dead man walking. A mummy—"

Mike shook his head. "I've never met a dead man walking yet, butch, and I don't want to.

But just maybe wait here a sec. I'm going to have a look myself. I'm beginning to think that bottle of pop must have gone to your head!"

CHRIS stood still. His eyes accustomed to the dark once more, he could make out the pillars rising from the floor to support the big roof. He couldn' make out much else except the huge stack of cases out near the middle of the big space, others over against one wall. There was a big basement. Mike had told him that. And an upstairs. No telling what might be up there. Not that Chris was interested. . . .

A rat squealed and Chris shifted his weight, then moved along the wall. He came to a corner and stepped around. It was very dark.

Something touched his face and Chris jerked back violently. Something had touched his face: a hand, fingers that were cold and clammy and sticky. Like that mummy face he had seen. Dead and cold. . . .

Again something stretched out of the dark and with a strangled cry, Chris struck savagely, feeling his fist crush against the cold, sharp contour of a face.

Instantly Chris whirled and leaped away. His breath was sharp, hot in his lungs, his heart smashing against his side. He'd never known fear before, not this kind. He's been scared more than once maybe, but never like this, awful and sickening.

He hurled himself through the gloom, till his racing body struck the edge of one of the pillars, spinning him around. He sprawled to the floor, knelt there panting, staring back. His shoulder hurt—

A sound came to him, a creepy, soft sound as of someone tip-toeing after him through the dark. The dead man who could walk, who had reached out in the dark and touched his face. He was coming now through the dark. Chris remembered the smashing impact of his fist against the face. It hadn't done any good—

Frantically Chris leaped up and sprinted away through the dark. Before him somewhere was the door leading out. If he could only find it, if he could get out. . . .

He saw the door and leaped through it. He raced across to the window, skidded to a stop, to stare back.

FOR a moment there was just awful silence. Mike was back there somewhere. Mike alone with a walking dead man. . . .

A sound came suddenly, the splintering crash of wood tearing free, falling with a roar to the floor. The impact shook the building and the floor under Chris' feet, and then there was silence save for the excited scampering of rats in the darkness.

Someone called and relief rolled over Chris. He moved back across the floor to the door. He paused there, staring down at the heavy beam lying across the threshold. Dust filled the air.

"Okay," Mike said. "It's alright now."

He came out of the gloom, moved along the beam a little way and stood staring down. He said, "Here's your dead man. *Still* alive. Temporarily out of commission."

Chris stepped forward and peered down. Ah, that was the face all right, thin and clammy looking.

"Nice make-up," Mike muttered. "He sure looked like the real thing. I got his pal upstairs. They had this beam rigged up as a trap. They could see the doorway from upstairs. If I hadn't got the other guy first, they'd have killed you as you went through the door."

"Take it easy, Hawkshaw," Chris snapped. "*They* tried to scare us. Why? What's going on here?"

"THIS warehouse used to belong to an old guy by the name of Winters," Mike explained patiently. "And a long time ago he was in business . . . tires. Only the business flopped and the old guy went west.

"These two birds we've just tangled with stumbled on this place. Maybe they knew about it beforehand, but anyhow they came out here and have been getting ready to cart the stuff away in trucks."

"Still doesn't make sense—"

Mike grinned, wiped sweat and dust off his forehead. "Rubber," he explained. "This dump is loaded with it. These guys planned to black-market it." Mike chuckled. "Only they're going on the market themselevs now. It'll be a black one for them, too. Very black!"

THE END

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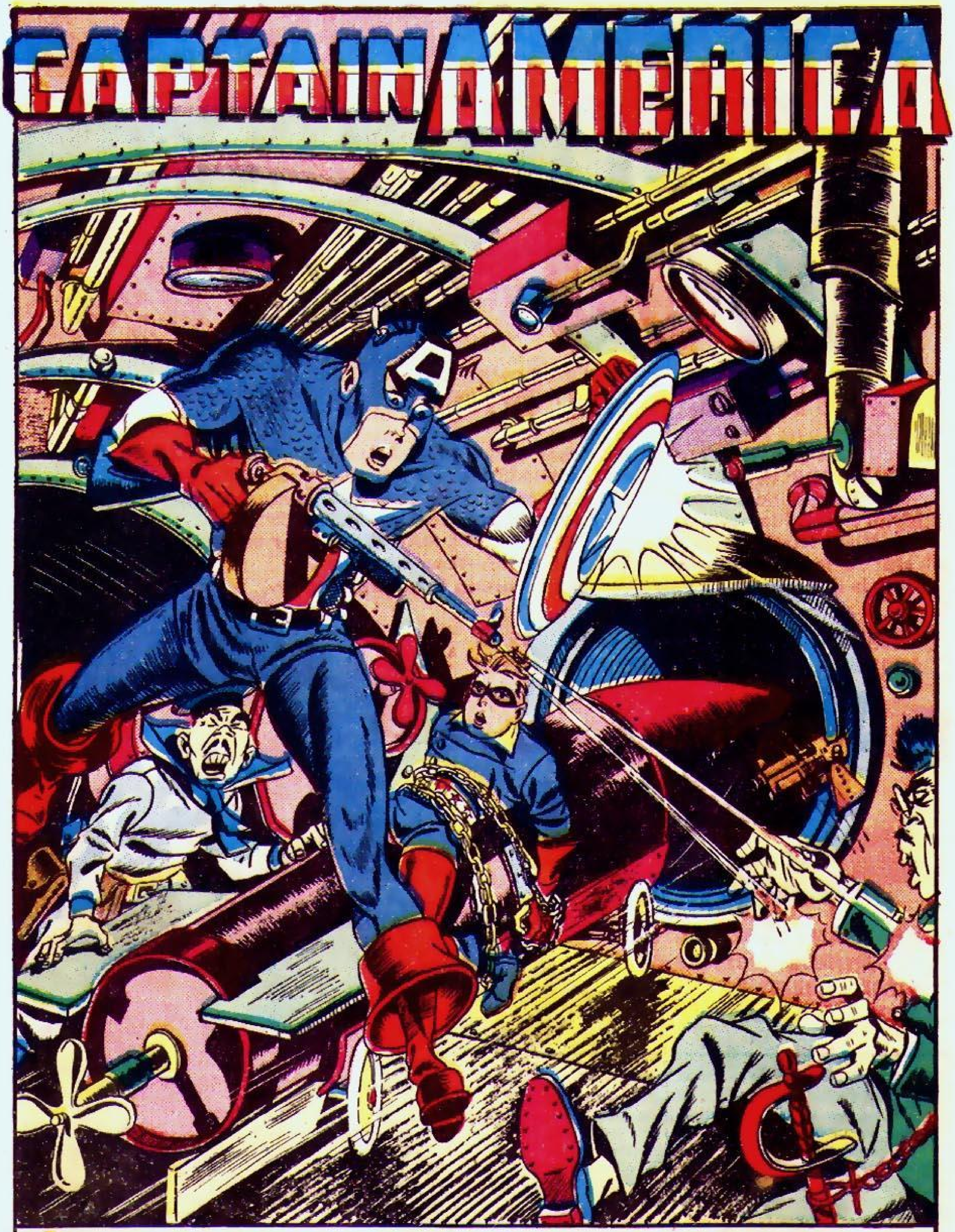
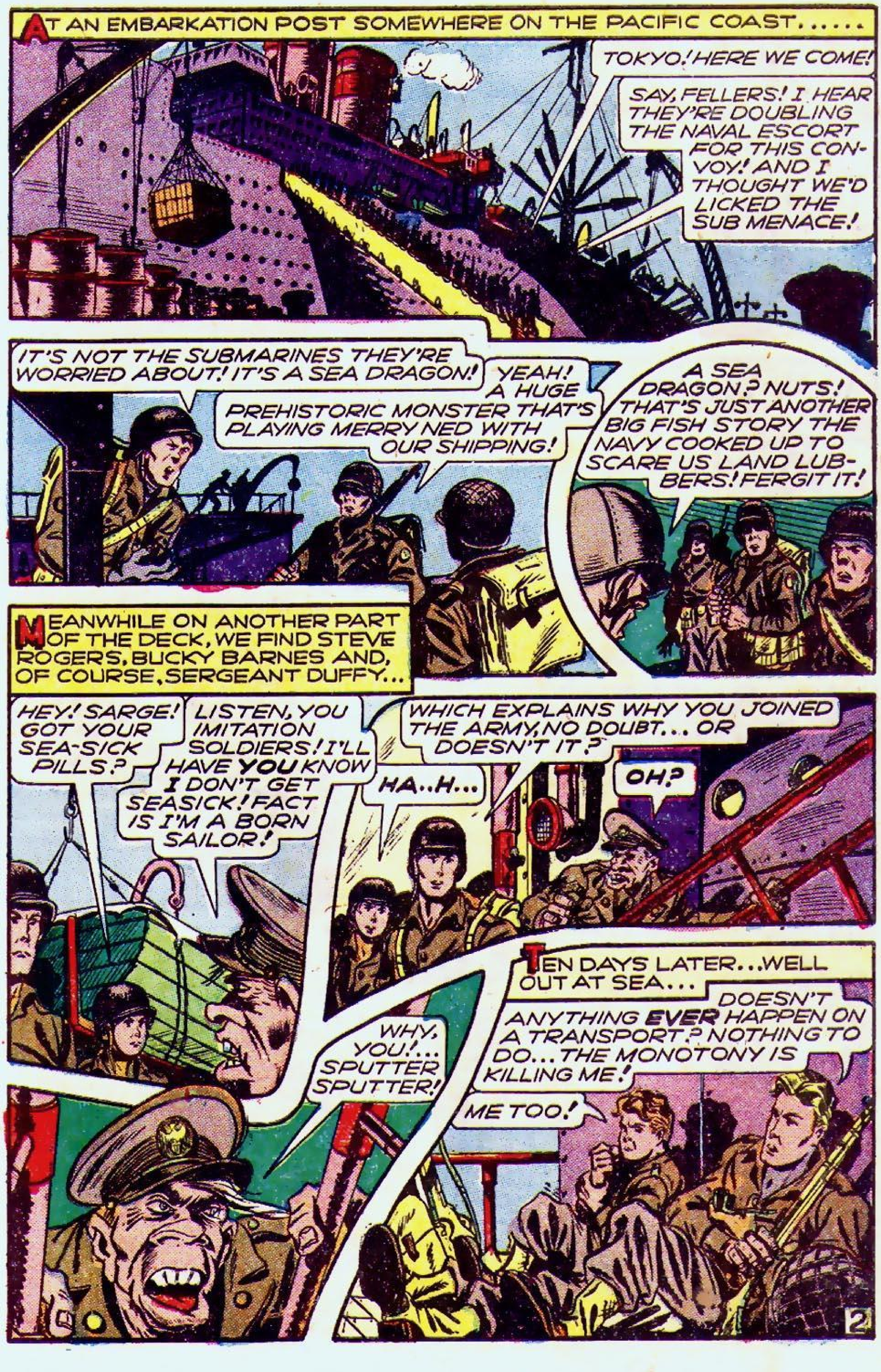
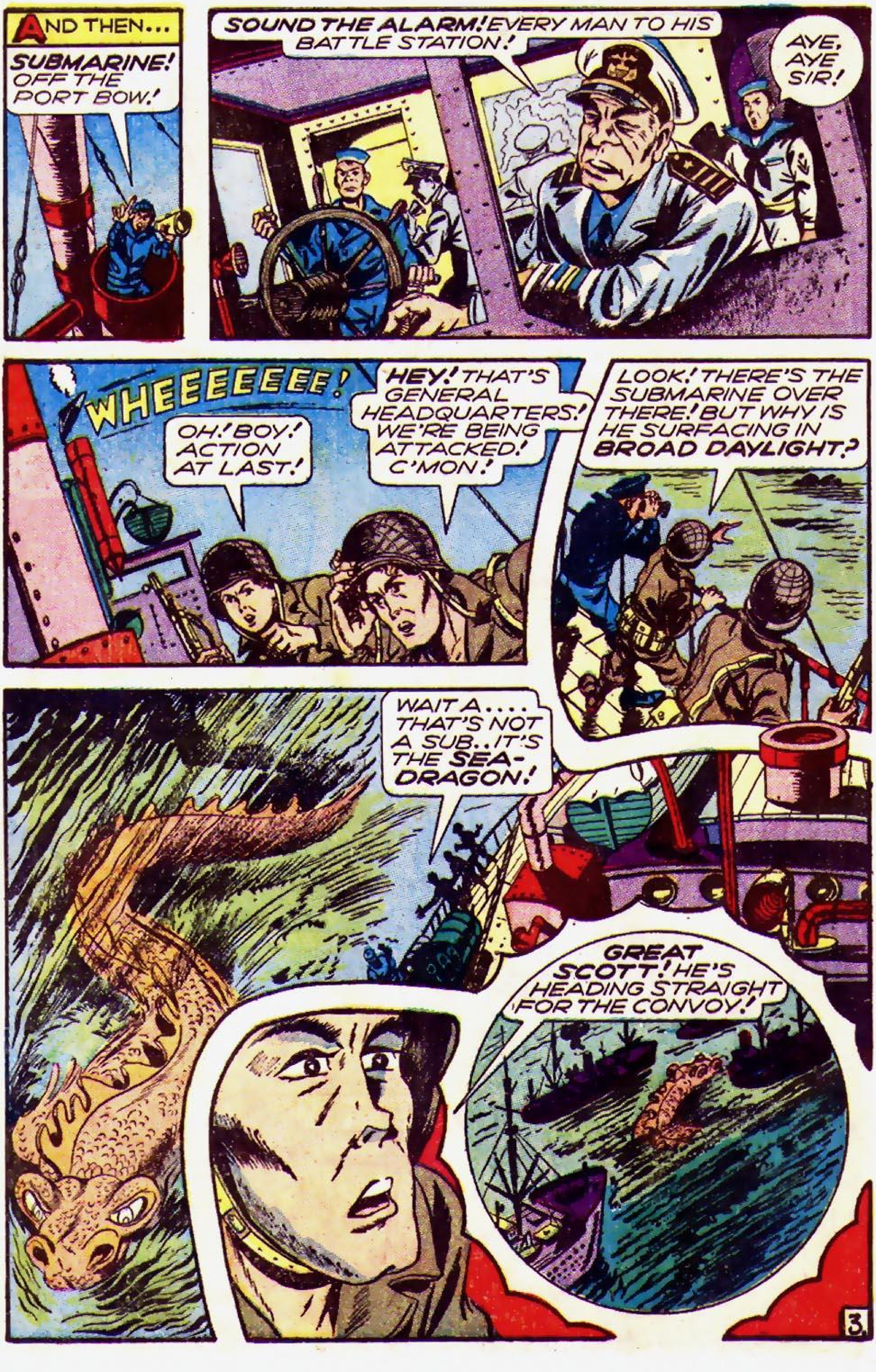
CAPTAIN AMERICA

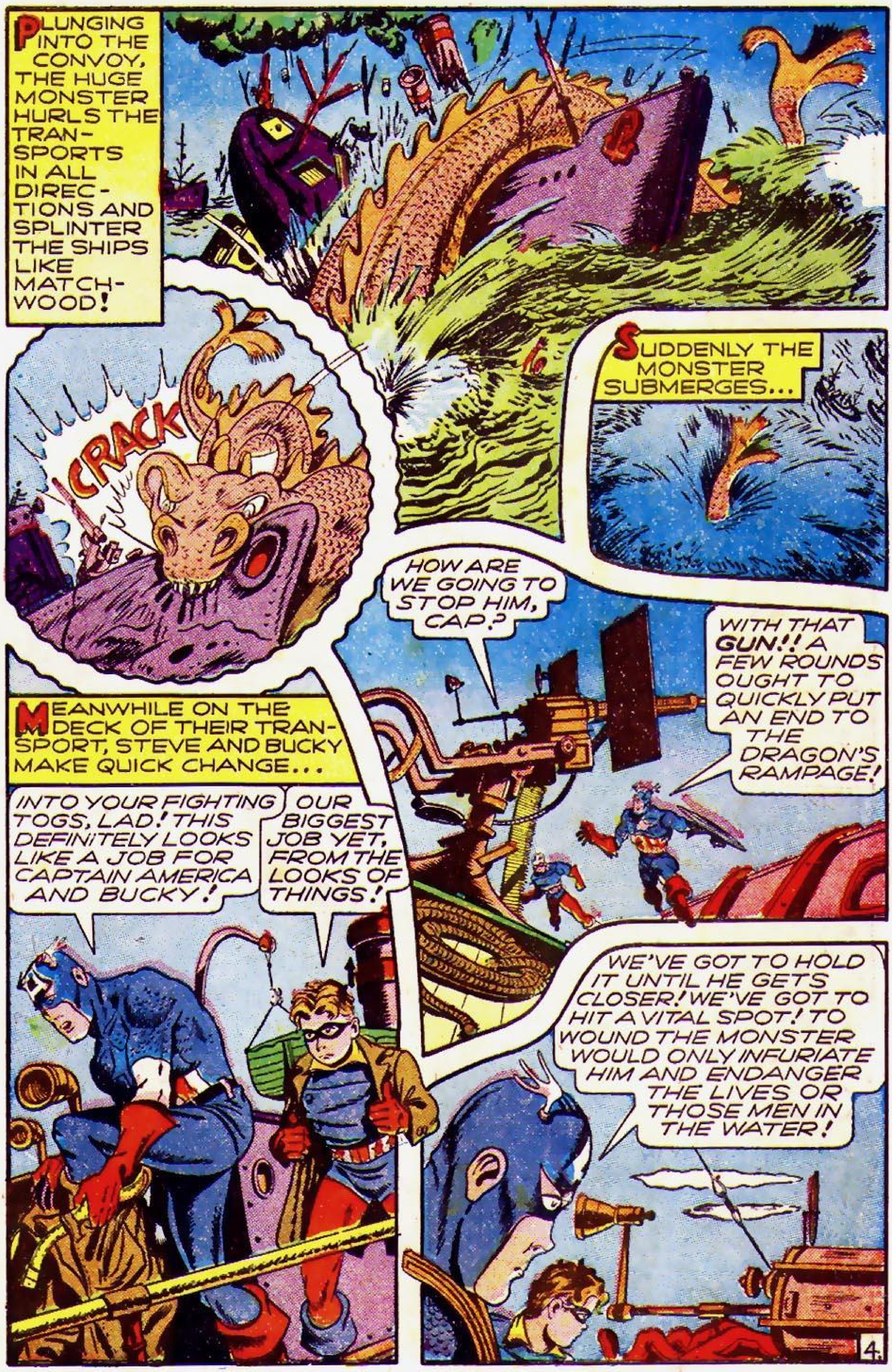


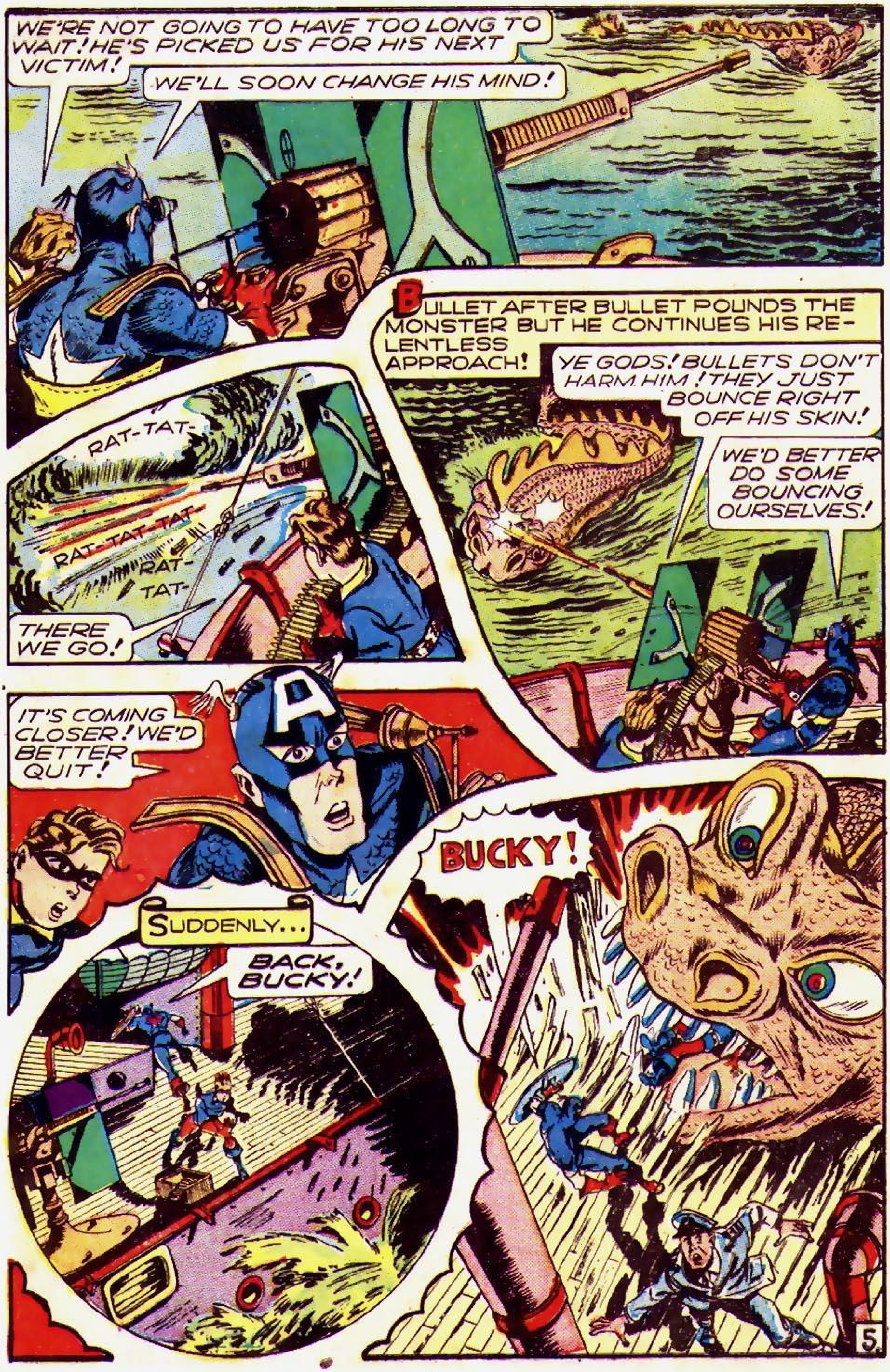
AN AGE OLD LEGEND BECOMES A REALITY WHEN FROM THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE DEEP PACIFIC COMES A **KILLER** AS OLD AS THE SEA ITSELF... AS BIG AS A CITY BLOCK.... AS STRONG AS TEN THOUSAND MEN.... A **KILLER** WHO **CAN'T** BE STOPPED BECAUSE NEITHER BULLETS NOR BOMBS WILL PENETRATE ITS SCALY HIDES! COME ALONG WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ON A THRILL-PACKED VOYAGE OF HIGH ADVENTURE AS THEY BATTLE----

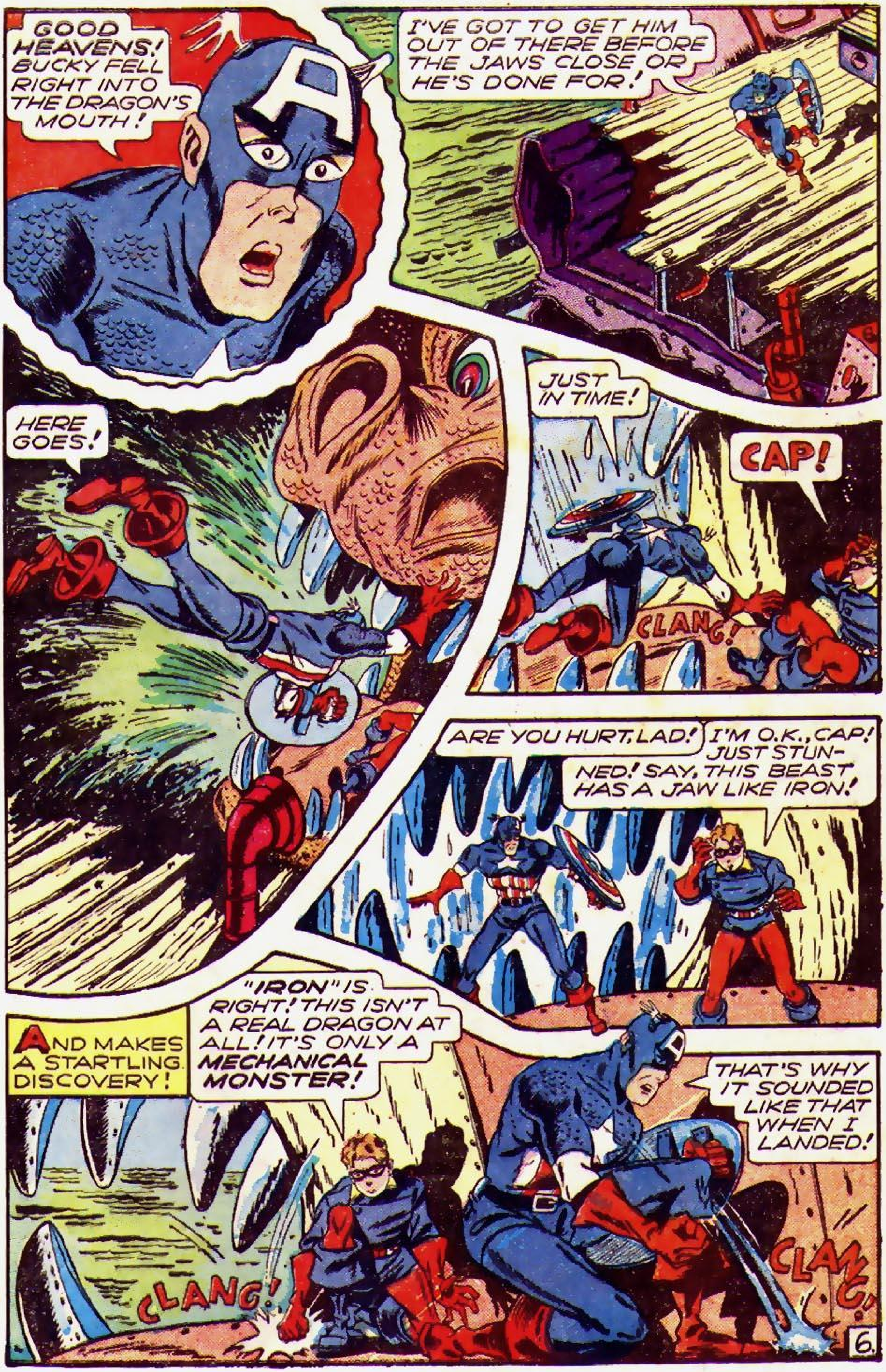
THE SEA DRAGON!

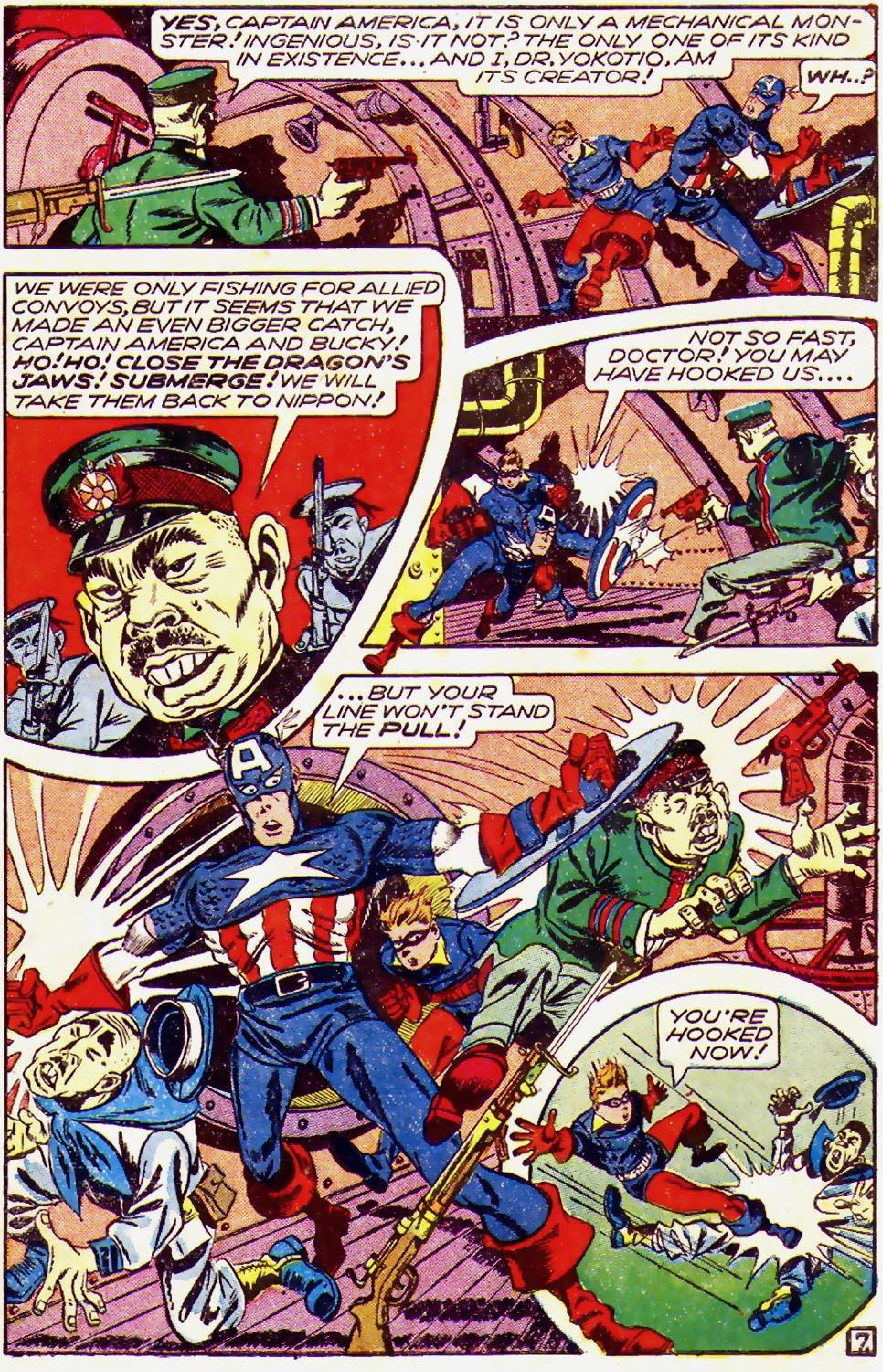

AT AN EMBARKATION POST SOMEWHERE ON THE PACIFIC COAST.....
TOKYO! HERE WE COME!
SAY, FELLERS! I HEAR THEY'RE DOUBLING THE NAVAL ESCORT FOR THIS CONVOY! AND I THOUGHT WE'D LICKED THE SUB MENACE!
IT'S NOT THE SUBMARINES THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT! IT'S A SEA DRAGON!
YEAH! A HUGE PREHISTORIC MONSTER THAT'S PLAYING MERRY NED WITH OUR SHIPPING!
A SEA DRAGON? NUTS! THAT'S JUST ANOTHER BIG FISH STORY THE NAVY COOKED UP TO SCARE US LAND LUBBERS! FERGIT IT!
MEANWHILE ON ANOTHER PART OF THE DECK, WE FIND STEVE ROGERS, BUCKY BARNES AND, OF COURSE, SERGEANT DUFFY...
HEY! SARGE! GOT YOUR SEA-SICK PILLS?
LISTEN, YOU IMITATION SOLDIERS! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I DON'T GET SEASICK! FACT IS I'M A BORN SAILOR!
HA..H...
WHICH EXPLAINS WHY YOU JOINED THE ARMY, NO DOUBT... OR DOESN'T IT?
OH?
WHY, YOU!... SPUTTER SPUTTER!
TEN DAYS LATER...WELL OUT AT SEA...
DOESN'T ANYTHING EVER HAPPEN ON A TRANSPORT? NOTHING TO DO... THE MONOTONY IS KILLING ME!
ME TOO!

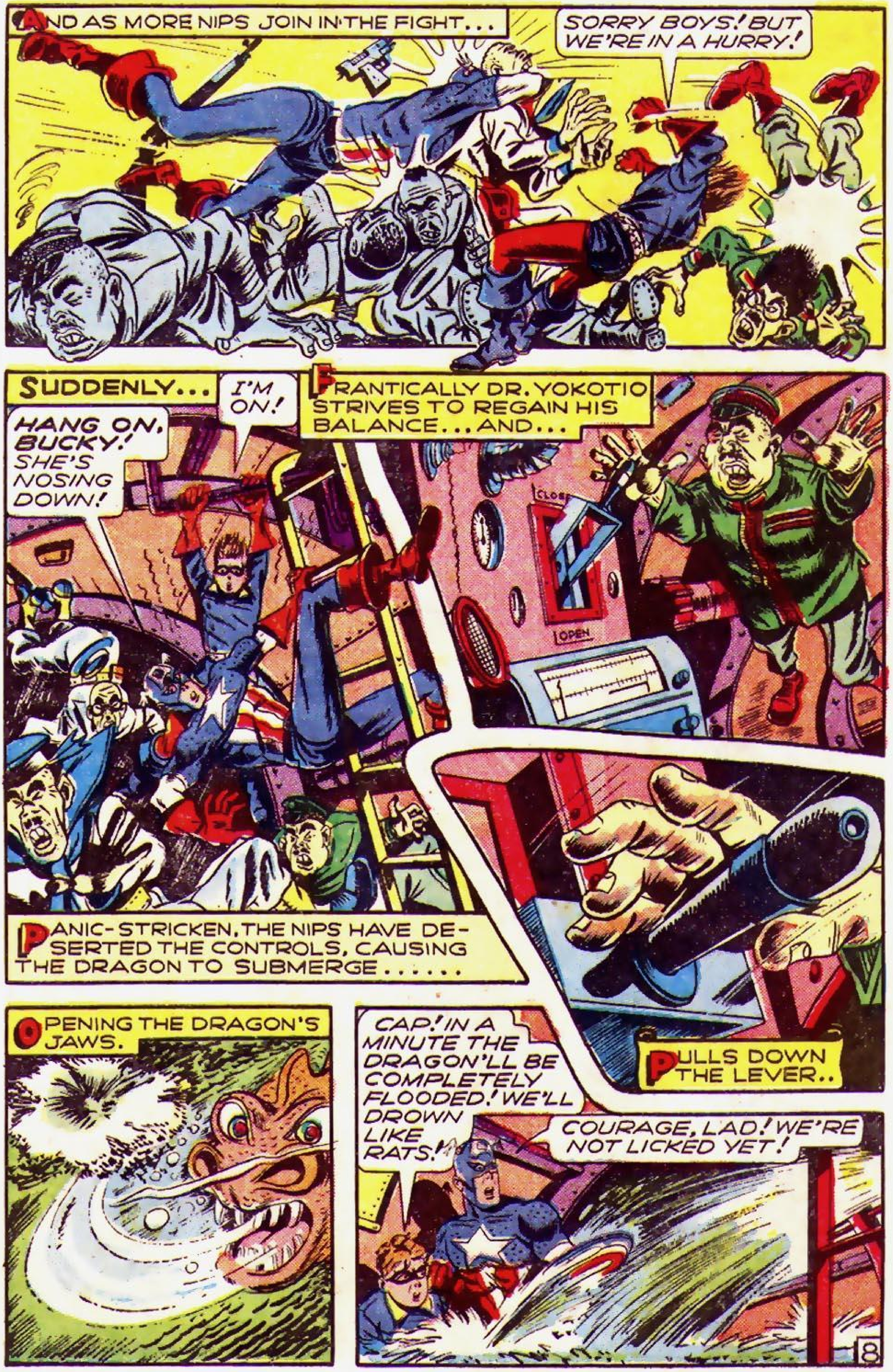

AND THEN...
SUBMARINE! OFF THE PORT BOW!
SOUND THE ALARM! EVERY MAN TO HIS BATTLE STATION!
AYE, AYE SIR!
WHEEEEEEEE!
OH! BOY! ACTION AT LAST!
HEY! THAT'S GENERAL HEADQUARTERS! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED! C'MON!
LOOK! THERE'S THE SUBMARINE OVER THERE! BUT WHY IS HE SURFACING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?
WAIT A.... THAT'S NOT A SUB.. IT'S THE SEA-DRAGON!
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE CONVOY!

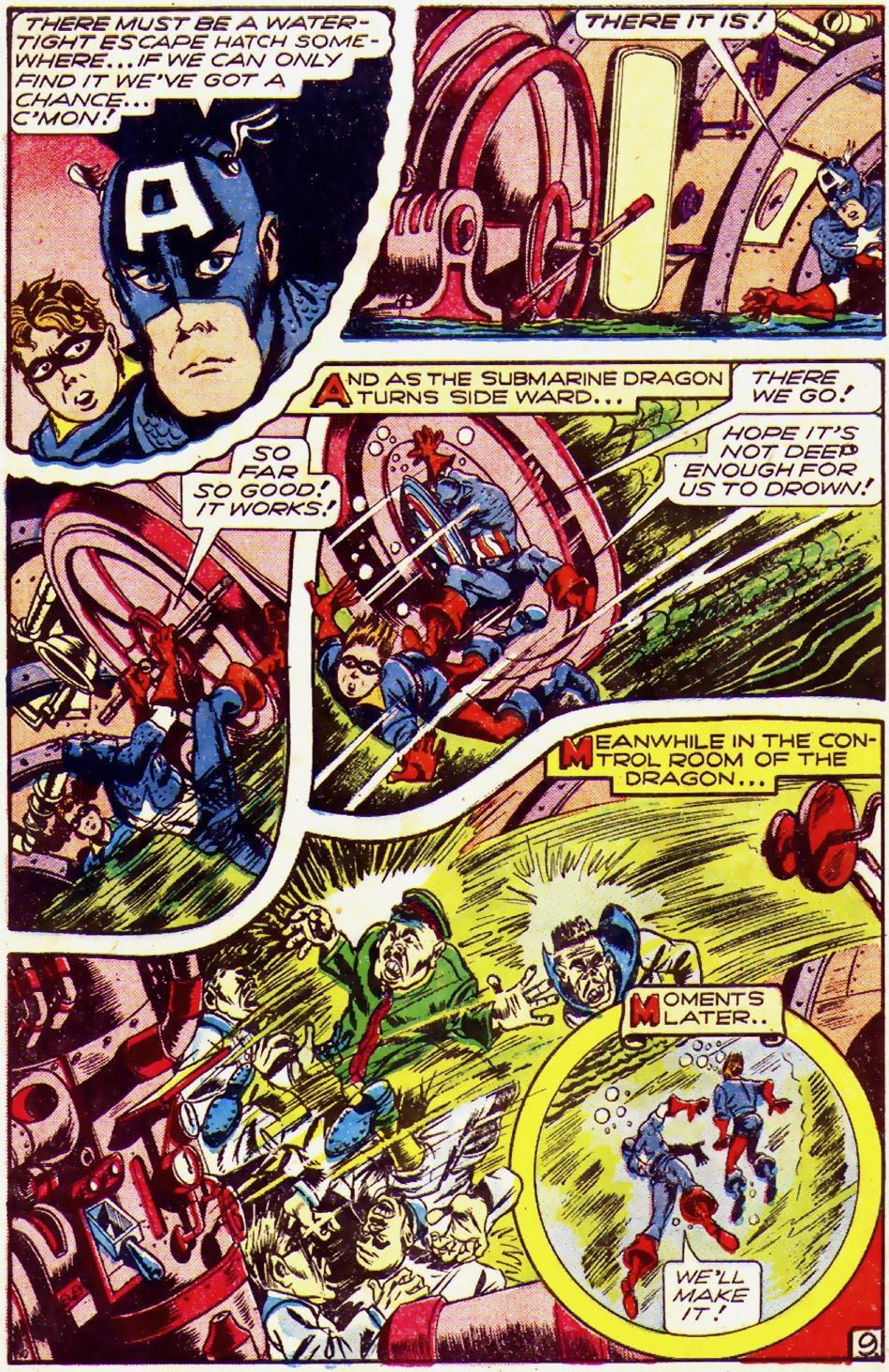

PLUNGING INTO THE CONVOY, THE HUGE MONSTER HURLS THE TRANSPORTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND SPLINTER THE SHIPS LIKE MATCHWOOD!
CRACK
SUDDENLY THE MONSTER SUBMERGES...
HOW ARE WE GOING TO STOP HIM, CAP?
WITH THAT GUN!! A FEW ROUNDS OUGHT TO QUICKLY PUT AN END TO THE DRAGON'S RAMPAGE!
MEANWHILE ON THE DECK OF THEIR TRANSPORT, STEVE AND BUCKY MAKE QUICK CHANGE...
INTO YOUR FIGHTING TOGS, LAD! THIS DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!
OUR BIGGEST JOB YET, FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS!
WE'VE GOT TO HOLD IT UNTIL HE GETS CLOSER! WE'VE GOT TO HIT A VITAL SPOT! TO WOUND THE MONSTER WOULD ONLY INFURIATE HIM AND ENDANGER THE LIVES OR THOSE MEN IN THE WATER!

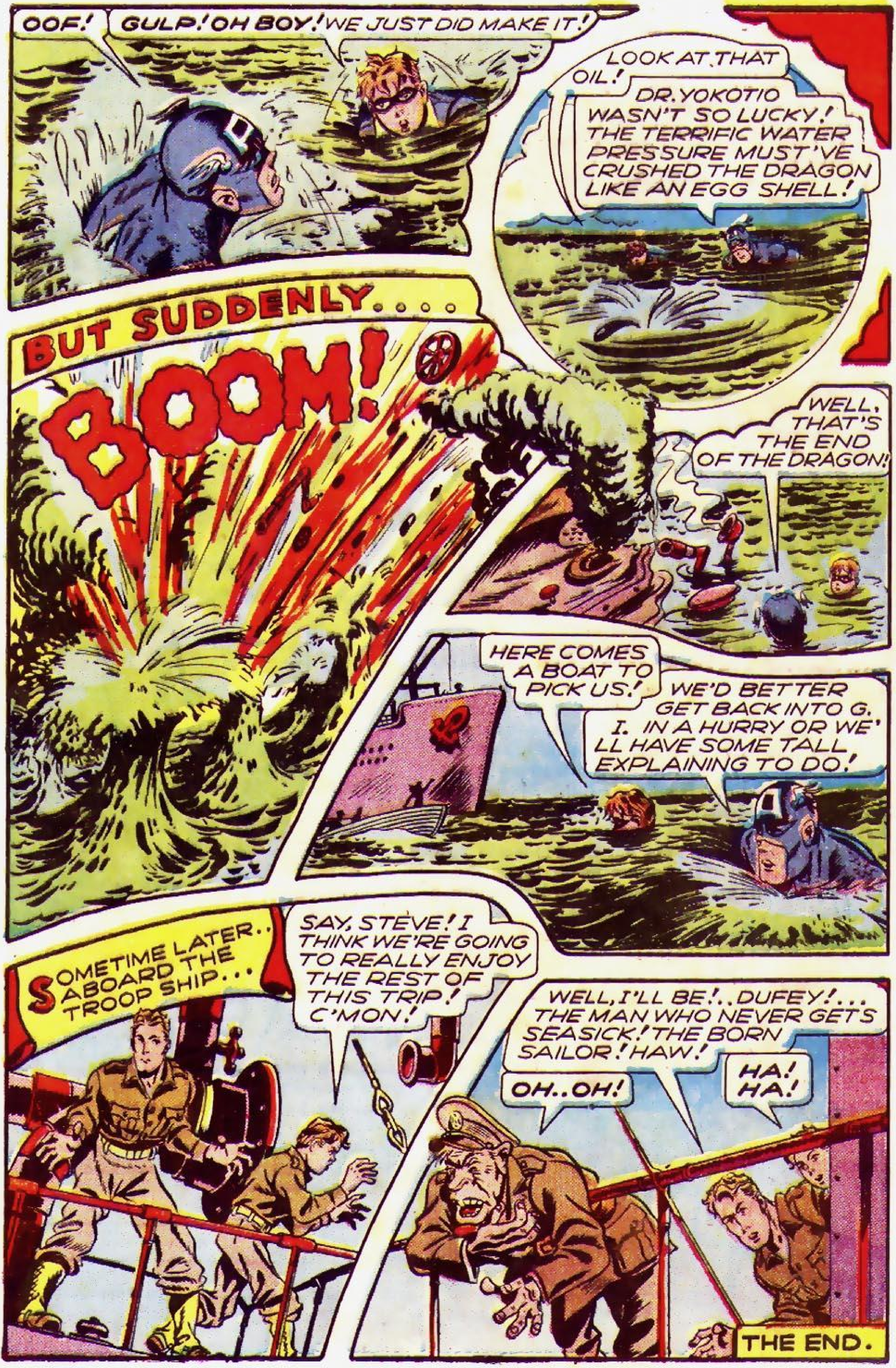

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TOO LONG TO WAIT! HE'S PICKED US FOR HIS NEXT VICTIM!
WE'LL SOON CHANGE HIS MIND!
BULLET AFTER BULLET POUNDS THE MONSTER BUT HE CONTINUES HIS RELENTLESS APPROACH!
RAT-TAT-
RAT-TAT-TAT
RAT-TAT-
THERE WE GO!
YE GODS! BULLETS DON'T HARM HIM! THEY JUST BOUNCE RIGHT OFF HIS SKIN!
WE'D BETTER DO SOME BOUNCING OURSELVES!
IT'S COMING CLOSER! WE'D BETTER QUIT!
SUDDENLY...
BACK, BUCKY!
BUCKY!

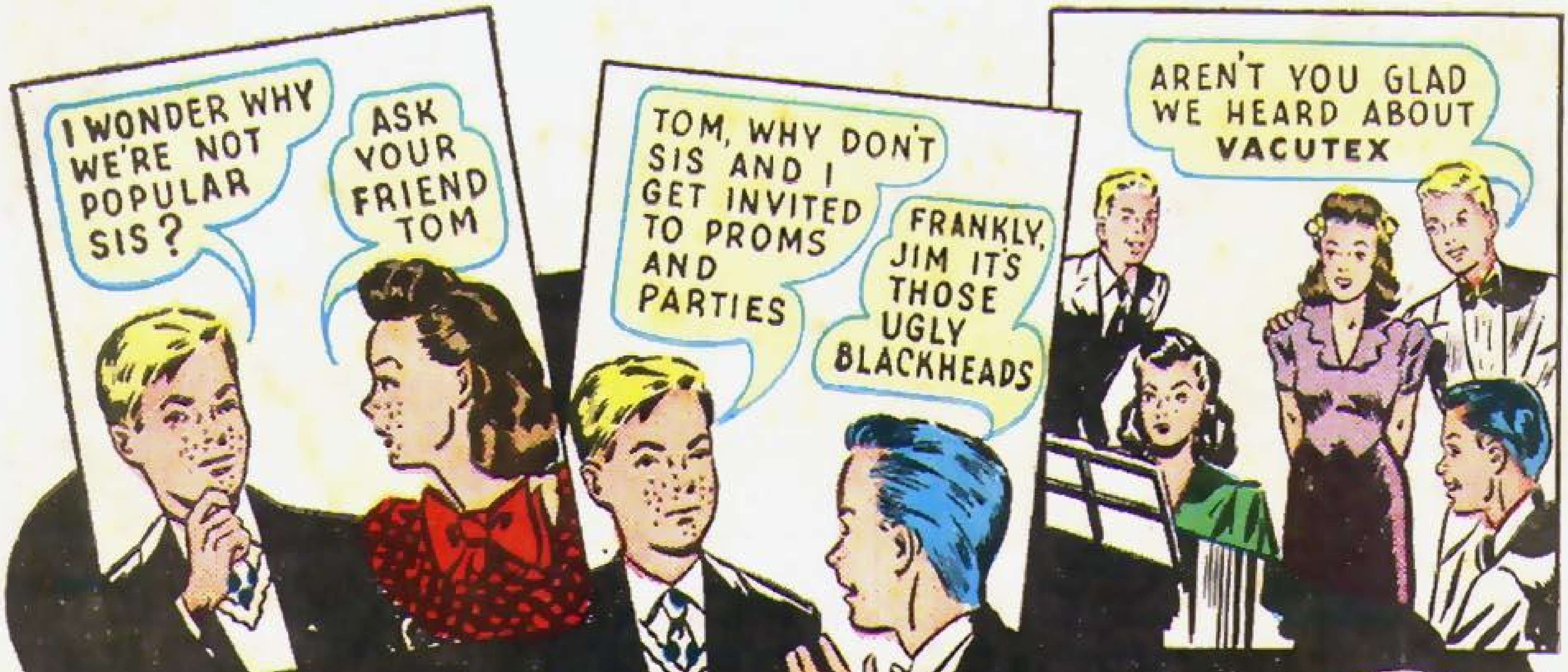

GOOD HEAVENS! BUCKY FELL RIGHT INTO THE DRAGON'S MOUTH!
I'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE BEFORE THE JAWS CLOSE OR HE'S DONE FOR!
HERE GOES!
JUST IN TIME!
CAP!
CLANG!
ARE YOU HURT, LAD!
I'M O.K., CAP! JUST STUNNED! SAY, THIS BEAST HAS A JAW LIKE IRON!
AND MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY!
"IRON" IS RIGHT! THIS ISN'T A REAL DRAGON AT ALL! IT'S ONLY A MECHANICAL MONSTER!
THAT'S WHY IT SOUNDED LIKE THAT WHEN I LANDED!
CLANG!
CLANG!
6.


YES, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IT IS ONLY A MECHANICAL MONSTER! INGENIOUS, IS IT NOT? THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN EXISTENCE... AND I, DR. YOKOTIO, AM ITS CREATOR!
WH..?
WE WERE ONLY FISHING FOR ALLIED CONVOYS, BUT IT SEEMS THAT WE MADE AN EVEN BIGGER CATCH, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY! **HO! HO! CLOSE THE DRAGON'S JAWS! SUBMERGE!** WE WILL TAKE THEM BACK TO NIPPON!
NOT SO FAST, DOCTOR! YOU MAY HAVE HOOKED US....
...BUT YOUR LINE WON'T STAND THE **PULL**!
YOU'RE HOOKED NOW!

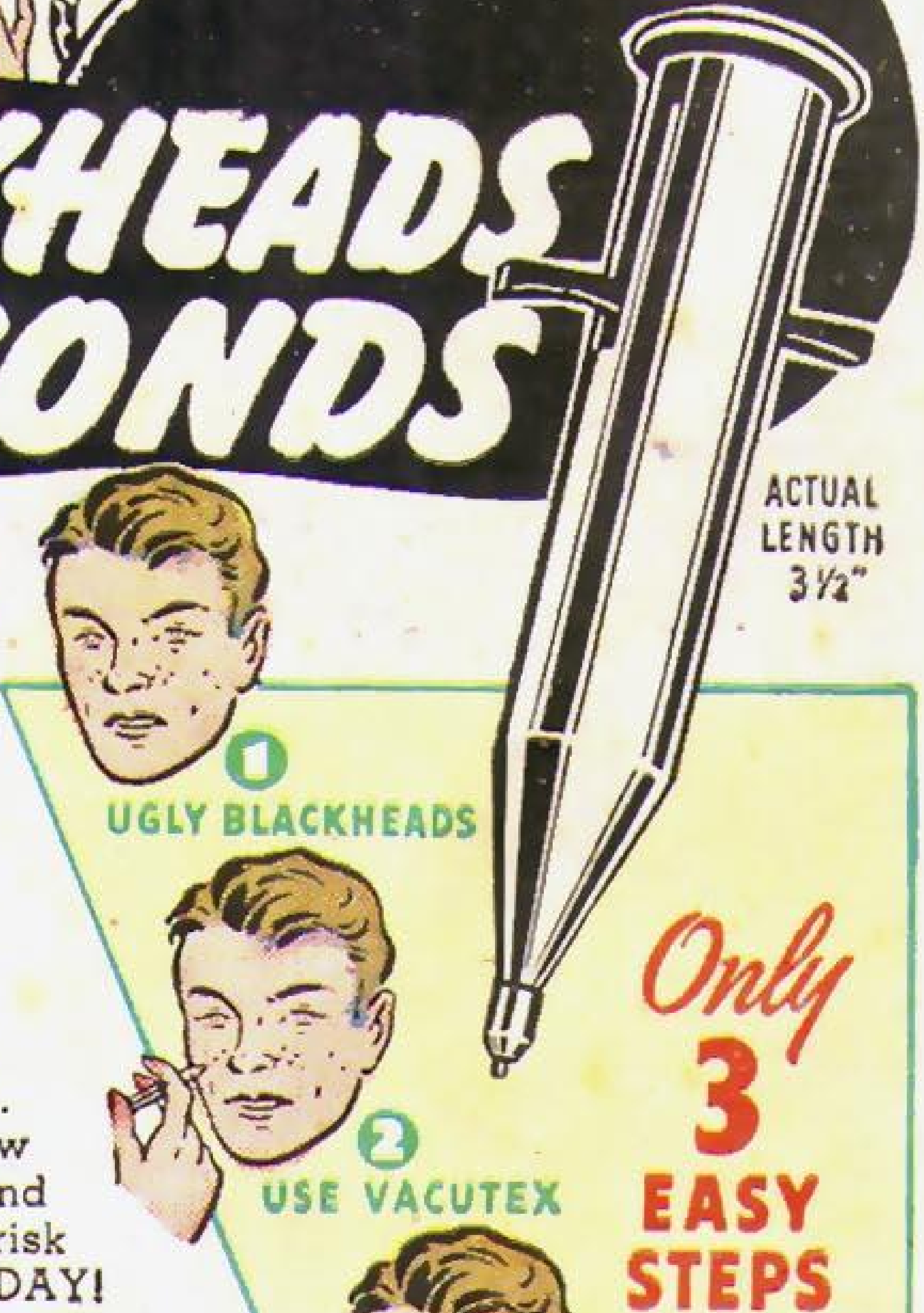

AND AS MORE NIPS JOIN IN THE FIGHT...
SORRY BOYS! BUT WE'RE IN A HURRY!
SUDDENLY...
HANG ON, BUCKY! SHE'S NOSING DOWN!
I'M ON!
PANIC-STRICKEN, THE NIPS HAVE DESERTED THE CONTROLS, CAUSING THE DRAGON TO SUBMERGE......
FRANTICALLY DR. YOKOTIO STRIVES TO REGAIN HIS BALANCE...AND...
CLOSE
OPEN
PULLS DOWN THE LEVER..
OPENING THE DRAGON'S JAWS.
CAP! IN A MINUTE THE DRAGON'LL BE COMPLETELY FLOODED! WE'LL DROWN LIKE RATS!
COURAGE, LAD! WE'RE NOT LICKED YET!


THERE MUST BE A WATER-TIGHT ESCAPE HATCH SOMEWHERE... IF WE CAN ONLY FIND IT WE'VE GOT A CHANCE... C'MON!
THERE IT IS!
AND AS THE SUBMARINE DRAGON TURNS SIDE WARD...
THERE WE GO!
HOPE IT'S NOT DEEP ENOUGH FOR US TO DROWN!
SO FAR SO GOOD! IT WORKS!
MEANWHILE IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE DRAGON...
MOMENTS LATER..
WE'LL MAKE IT!
9


OOF!
GULP! OH BOY! WE JUST DID MAKE IT!
LOOK AT THAT OIL!
DR. YOKOTIO WASN'T SO LUCKY! THE TERRIFIC WATER PRESSURE MUST'VE CRUSHED THE DRAGON LIKE AN EGG SHELL!
BUT SUDDENLY....
BOOM!
WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THE DRAGON!
HERE COMES A BOAT TO PICK US!
WE'D BETTER GET BACK INTO G. I. IN A HURRY OR WE'LL HAVE SOME TALL EXPLAINING TO DO!
SOMETIME LATER.. ABOARD THE TROOP SHIP...
SAY, STEVE! I THINK WE'RE GOING TO REALLY ENJOY THE REST OF THIS TRIP! C'MON!
WELL, I'LL BE!.. DUFEY!... THE MAN WHO NEVER GET'S SEASICK! THE BORN SAILOR! HAW!
OH..OH!
HA! HA!
THE END.


I WONDER WHY WE'RE NOT POPULAR SIS?
ASK YOUR FRIEND TOM
TOM, WHY DON'T SIS AND I GET INVITED TO PROMS AND PARTIES
FRANKLY, JIM IT'S THOSE UGLY BLACKHEADS
AREN'T YOU GLAD WE HEARD ABOUT VACUTEX

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT IN SECONDS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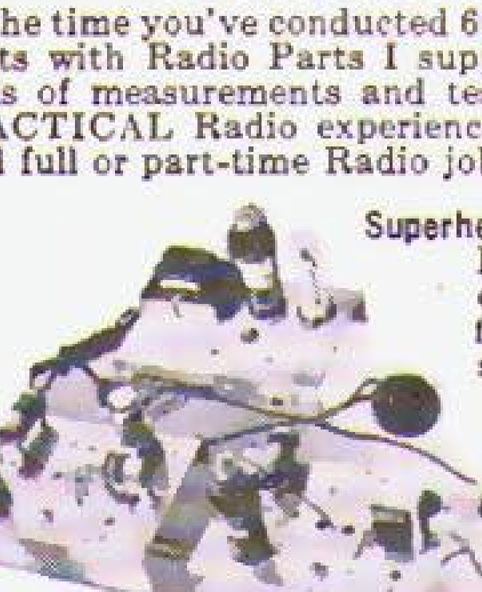

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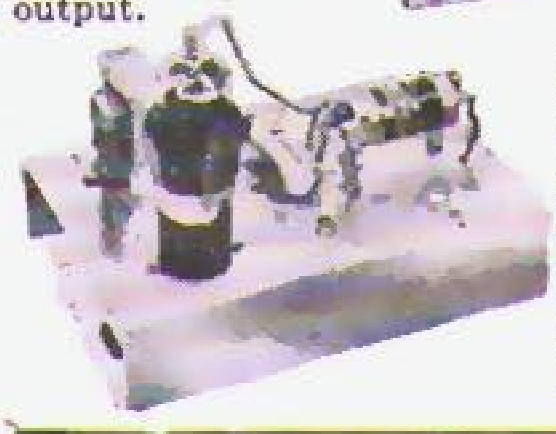

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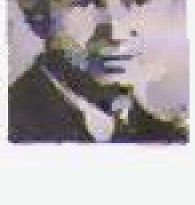

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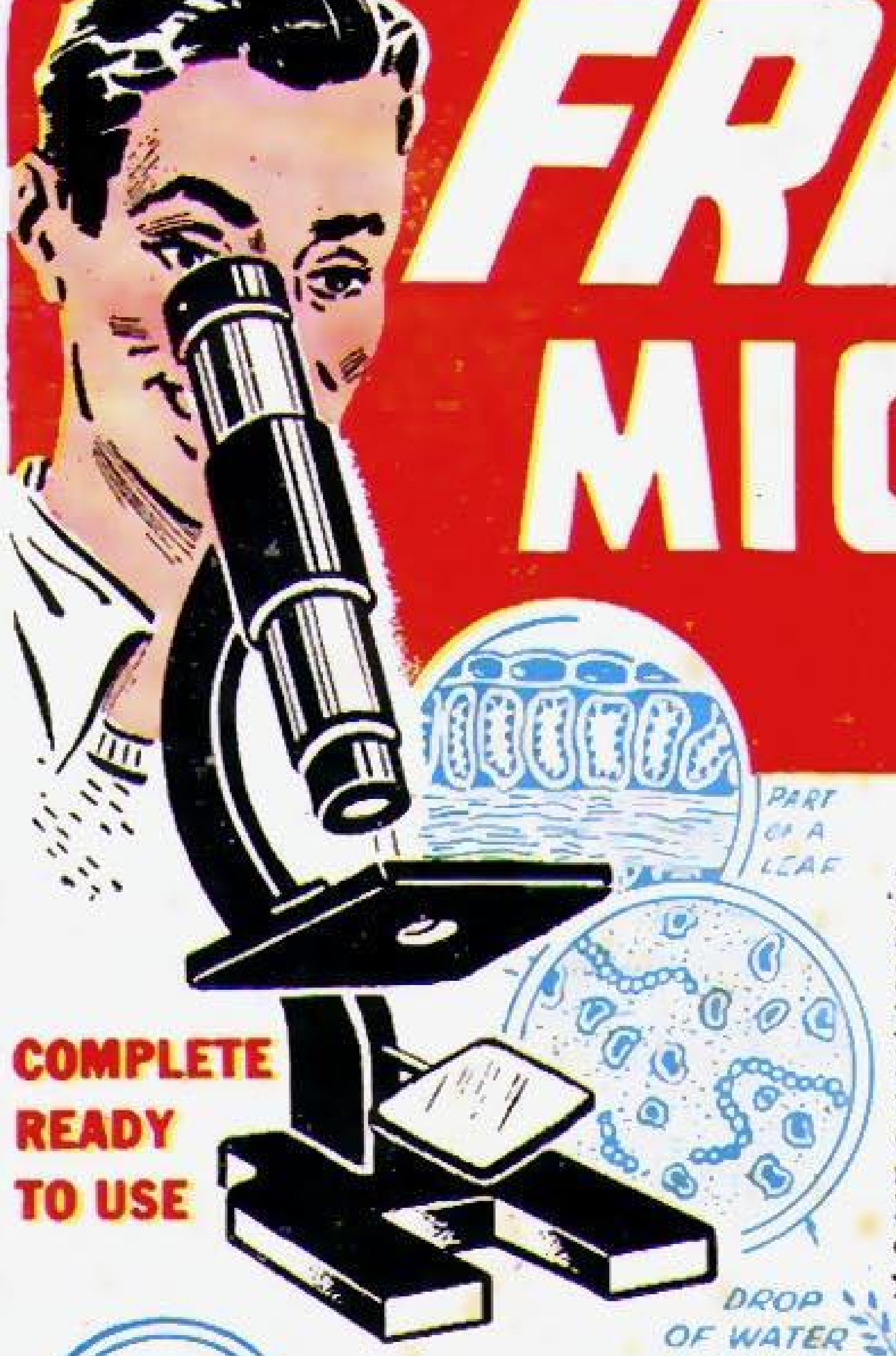

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